



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces Dramatic Park-and-Ride Ridership Gains

Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the park-and-ride service just completed a successful year filled with ridership gains. Ridership reached 290,000 passenger trips in Fiscal Year 2006 (July 2005 to June 2006). This represents a 23% increase over FY 2005 (230,248 riders) and a 70% increase over FY 2004 (170,403 riders). The Park-and-Ride service currently provides more than 1,300 average daily rides per day on its statewide system of commuter buses.

“The popularity of park-and-ride as well as the Rail Runner proves that New Mexicans are hungry for new, fast, and clean transportation choices,” said Governor Richardson. “I am committed to providing these choices to commuters who are struggling with high prices at the pump.”

The New Mexico Department of Transportation continues to implement a series of measures to address growing ridership demand.

“This only reinforces our belief that there is a strong need for public transportation in New Mexico,” Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught said. “I am very pleased that we’re continuing to meet that need as we add new park-and-ride routes and refine the existing services.”

Since July of this year, the Department has taken several measures to further improve and expand the park-and-ride service, Faught said. “We have seen a steady increase in our park-and-ride ridership since its inception more than two years ago. More and more people are using the service because we’re offering an efficient, affordable and convenient transportation alternative that is saving them time and money.”

This past fiscal year, the Department added a new route between Las Vegas and Santa Fe, expanded service into southern New Mexico by a route linking New Mexico State University, Las Cruces and White Sands Missile Range, and increased service frequency between Española and Los Alamos.

Since July, the Department took the following measures to address increasing ridership demand:

- Service was extended to Rio Rancho, where Sandoval County is developing a Park and Ride facility adjacent to the Sandoval County Judicial Complex.
- Service was increased at the NMDOT District 5 stop in southern Santa Fe.

- A stop was added at the Los Alamos Hospital on the route between Española and Los Alamos.
- Morning buses from Santa Fe to downtown Albuquerque have been improved to allow better connections with ABQ Rides service to major destinations, including the University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Sunport.
- Express service between Albuquerque and Los Alamos was initiated.
- Two buses were added to the fleet to provide additional capacity on the Purple Route between Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

In addition to improving its schedule, the Department has constructed a new passenger boarding area at the NMDOT stop in Santa Fe. Other improvements will include designated boarding areas for each of the routes that use the facility, permanent shelters for each route, and improved access for riders and buses.

For maps, schedules and other general information, visit www.nmparkandride.com. For current information on bus operations, call (505) 424-1110, or toll free, (866) 551-7433 (RIDE). Park and Ride's e-mail address is: nmparkandride@state.nm.us .

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