



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

Michael R. Sandoval  
Cabinet Secretary

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**NMDOT provides \$1M to expand transit to New Mexicans in need**

SANTA FE – Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval has authorized spending \$1 million from the State Road Fund to create a pilot program in 2020 to expand transportation services to transit-dependent populations and isolated communities.

The goal of the single-year pilot program is to improve quality of life for seniors, veterans, lower income households and others isolated by geography or lack of accessible transportation. DOT will **track the program's accomplishments and then evaluate its performance at the end of the year**-long run.

The New Mexico Transit Association asked DOT for the funding.

**“This is a program that could positively impact many lives, including people who rely on transit to access medical care, social services and veteran services,” Sandoval said.**

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham applauded the pilot program.

**“This is the type of collaboration that improves the quality of life for New Mexicans,” Gov. Lujan Grisham said. “With this program, the Department of Transportation shows it is about more than building roads. It’s about helping New Mexicans get where they need to go.”**

Approved projects include:

- \$186,000 to buy a small bus with a lift and hire a full-time driver to transport seniors between Clovis and Portales for medical needs;
- \$181,000 to create a Social Service Fare Program to provide discounted transit passes for the **Rail Runner Express and Rio Metro’s bus** services;
- \$110,000 to buy a vehicle and hire an operator to take people to opioid treatment centers from the communities of Chimayo, Cuartelez, El Valle de Arroyo Seco, Espanola, La Puebla, Santa Cruz and Sombrillo;
- \$26,000 to transport Alamogordo students and residents in need of medical services to Las Cruces and back;
- \$321,000 to buy a bus and fund operating costs to support Gallup public school students;
- \$64,000 for a service to take seniors and those with disabilities from the village of Dona Ana to medical appointments, hospitals and community centers.

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