

draft
transit
plan

for public
comment

bringing people together

www.riometro.org

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YOU SPOKE, RIO METRO LISTENED

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District serves the counties of Sandoval, Bernalillo and Valencia. By 2025, these counties are projected to have a population that exceeds 1 million. With 80% of the new jobs expected to be located in Bernalillo County and with an estimated 50% of the new residents living in Sandoval and Valencia Counties, metropolitan residents will be experiencing more vehicles on our highways traveling longer distances. This means increased congestion, lower travel speeds and longer commute times.

Our population is also getting older. In 2006 the number of people in the Rio Metro area that were age 65 or older was about 93,000. By 2030 the number of people in this age group is projected to be almost 235,000 - an increase of 154%!

Last year, to prepare for these transportation challenges, Rio Metro began a public out reach effort to obtain input to identify regional transit services, infrastructure needs and a funding method.

YOU SPOKE

You told Rio Metro that there are six elements that must be included in any regional transit and financial plan:

- More **direct** service (faster transit travel times)
- Transit connections to **regional** transit services (such as the New Mexico Rail Runner Express)
- Transit service **within your neighborhood** and community
- **Courteous and polite** customer service
- **Affordable** Funding Plan
- Provide service and **cost options**

RIO METRO LISTENED

The Rio Metro Draft Transit Service & Financial Plan was developed to meet your travel needs. The plan presented to you brings transit to a higher level—a **regional** level—of service:

- **Faster, more direct** transit service from park-and-ride facilities to major destinations
- Virtually **countywide** transit service for all of Sandoval, Valencia, and Bernalillo counties

- **Community-developed** neighborhood circulators
- Funding for **select road improvements** that will make transit services faster and better
- A regional transit information center that is operated by a **well-trained staff**
- **Three** funding and service options

On the following pages are summaries of the services and amenities proposed for each county within the Rio Metro Regional Transit District.



Polite, well-trained Rio Metro staff members will help you plan a trip and can provide up-to-the-minute information.



Rio Metro will have faster, more direct service from park-and-ride facilities to major destinations and regional transit services (like the New Mexico Rail Runner Express).



Sandoval County is experiencing rapid population growth. The transit services and capital investments planned within Sandoval County provide intra-county connections as well as regional connections. Plan

elements within Sandoval County include dial-a-ride service, flex route service, neighborhood circulators, and commuter/express bus service.

SERVICE OPTIONS FOR SANDOVAL COUNTY

- **New general public dial-a-ride serving Algodones, the Town of Bernalillo, Corrales, Placitas, and Rio Rancho**
- **Four existing routes that would operate as a dial-a-ride service during off-peak periods**
 - Route 1: Town of Bernalillo to Rio Rancho
 - Route 4: Jemez Springs to Rio Rancho
 - Route 8: Cuba to San Ysidro
 - Route 22: Cochiti Lake to Rio Rancho
- **Four new neighborhood circulator routes**
 - Town of Bernalillo/Algodones
 - Southwest Rio Rancho
 - Central Rio Rancho
 - North Rio Rancho
- **Four new direct commuter express routes**
 - Corrales Commuter Express
 - Southwest Rio Rancho Commuter Express
 - Rio Rancho Commuter Express
 - US 550 Commuter Express
- **Five new park-and-ride facilities**
 - Corrales Road & NM 528 Park-and-Ride
 - Southwest Rio Rancho Park-and-Ride
 - US 550 & Unser Park-and-Ride
 - US 550 & Chayote Park-and-Ride
 - Enchanted Hills Park-and-Ride
- **Transit & Roadway Enhancements**
- **New passenger amenities including benches, shelters and information kiosks/signs**



The **Valencia County** transit system offers a mix of services to accommodate transit needs in the county. To support its developing economy and the workers who travel to the county, express service

from the Rail Runner stations to employment destinations is provided. Travel within the county is provided by a general public dial-a-ride service. For those residents who commute to jobs outside of the county, transit services to regional connections are included in the plan.

SERVICE OPTIONS FOR VALENCIA COUNTY

- **New general public dial-a-ride serving Adelino, Belen, Bosque Farms, El Cerro, Jarales, Los Chavez, Los Lunas, Meadow Lake, Rio Communities, Tomé, and Veguita**
- **Two new neighborhood circulators**
 - Belen
 - Los Lunas
- **Two new direct commuter express routes**
 - In Los Lunas service to and from the Rail Runner station to major businesses and service to the UNM Valencia Campus
 - In Belen service to and from the Rail Runner station to major businesses and service to the UNM Valencia Campus
 - Add all day service on Los Lunas Area\UNM Campus Commuter Express route as demand develops
- **Service to Rancho Cielo as it develops**
- **Four new park-and-ride facilities**
 - I-25 & NM 6 park-and-ride
 - Los Lunas East Park-and-Ride
 - Rio Communities Park-and-Ride
 - Rancho Cielo Park-and-Ride (when needed)
- **Transit & Roadway Enhancements**
- **New passenger amenities including benches, shelters, and information kiosks/signs**



Bernalillo County

Bernalillo County transit investments include services and related infrastructure designed to enhance local and regional connectivity between existing services and forecasted high growth areas. This plan also includes areas that have no transit service or are underserved. Given that 80% of the new metropolitan jobs are expected to be located in Bernalillo County, while 50% of new residents will live outside of it, more vehicles on Albuquerque and county roads are expected. Regional transit services originating in other counties will help mitigate this increased vehicle travel.

SERVICE OPTIONS FOR BERNALILLO COUNTY

- **New general public dial-a-ride serving Carnuel, Cedar Crest, Chilili, San Antonito, and Tijeras**
- **Five new neighborhood circulator routes**
 - Southwest Mesa
 - Northeast Heights
 - Northwest Mesa
 - Southeast Heights
 - Southeast Albuquerque
- **Eight new direct commuter express routes**
 - Southwest Mesa Commuter Express
 - Montañito/Montgomery Commuter Express
 - Ventana Ranch/Uptown Commuter Express
 - Mesa del Sol Commuter Express
 - Northeast Heights Commuter Express
 - East Albuquerque/KAFB Commuter Express
 - East Albuquerque/Journal Center Commuter Express
 - Southwest Rio Rancho/Northwest Albuquerque Commuter Express
 - Add all day service on Southwest Mesa Commuter Express route as demand develops
- **Five new park-and-ride facilities**
 - Tijeras Park-and-Ride
 - Coors & Rio Bravo Area Park-and-Ride
 - Northwest Albuquerque Park-and-Ride
 - Mesa Del Sol Park-and-Ride
 - Northeast Heights Park-and-Ride
- **New high capacity transit route**
- **Transit & roadway enhancements**
- **New passenger amenities including benches, shelters, and information kiosks/signs**

THE FINANCIAL PLAN

As you requested, Rio Metro developed three service and cost options. All three options are provided on the next page. Each subsequent funding option allows for a higher level of transit investment. Each of the three service plan options is based on a specific gross receipt tax rate:

- **1/8 cent gross receipts tax means that for every \$100 of taxable purchases, you would pay an additional 13 cents.**
- **3/16 cent gross receipts tax means that for every \$100 of taxable purchases, you would pay an additional 19 cents.**
- **1/4 cent gross receipts tax means that for every \$100 of taxable purchases, you would pay an additional 25 cents.**



Greatly expanded dial-a-ride service will help you get to important appointments.

Dedicated bus lanes reduce travel times and provide for convenient transfers



You will be able to get to the UNM–Valencia campus from Los Lunas or Belén via two new direct commuter/express routes.

COMPARISON OF RIO METRO PLAN ALTERNATIVES - 10 YEAR PLAN

Category	Location/Type	Alternative 1: 1/8 Cent Gross Receipts Tax	Alternative 2: 3/16 Cent Gross Receipts Tax	Alternative 3: 1/4 Cent Gross Receipts Tax
Dial-a-Ride	Bernalillo County	Mon-Sat 6am-6pm	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)
	Sandoval County	Mon-Sat 6am-6pm	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)
	Valencia County	Mon-Sat 6am-6pm	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)	6am-8pm (Wkd) 6am-10pm (Sat) 7am-6pm (Sun)
Flex Route Bus Service	Bernalillo County	–	–	–
	Sandoval County	4 Routes	4 Routes	4 Routes
	Valencia County	–	–	–
Neighborhood Circulator Bus Service	Bernalillo County	4 Routes Mon-Sat	5 Routes Mon-Sun	5 Routes Mon-Sun
	Sandoval County	3 Routes Mon-Sat	4 Routes Mon-Sun	4 Routes Mon-Sun
	Valencia County	–	2 Routes Mon-Sun	2 Routes Mon-Sun
Commuter Express Bus	Bernalillo County	8 Routes (Mon-Fri) 8 Trips Daily	8 Routes (Mon-Fri) 16 Trips Daily	8 Routes (Mon-Fri) 24 Trips Daily
	Sandoval County	4 Routes (Mon-Fri) 8 Trips Daily	4 Routes (Mon-Fri) 16 Trips Daily	4 Routes (Mon-Fri) 24 Trips Daily
	Valencia County	2 Routes (Mon-Fri) 8 Trips Daily	2 Routes (Mon-Fri) 16 Trips Daily	2 Routes (Mon-Fri) 24 Trips Daily
Limited Stop Service	Bernalillo County	–	–	2 Routes (Mon-Sat) 56 Trips Daily
	Sandoval County	–	–	2 Routes (Mon-Sat) 56 Trips Daily
	Valencia County	–	–	1 Route (Mon-Sat) 56 Trips Daily
High-Capacity Transit Service	Bernalillo County	–	1 Route (Mon-Sat) 112 Trips	1 Route (Mon-Sat) 112 Trips
	Sandoval County	–	–	–
	Valencia County	–	–	–
Park & Ride Facilities	Bernalillo County	3 Facilities	5 Facilities	5 Facilities
	Sandoval County	4 Facilities	5 Facilities	5 Facilities
	Valencia County	1 Facility	4 Facilities	4 Facilities
Passenger Amenities	Bernalillo County	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Sandoval County	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Valencia County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roadway Enhancements	Bernalillo County	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Sandoval County	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Valencia County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rio Metro Fleet Plans 10-Year Build Out Includes Spare Buses	Demand Response Buses	26	26	28
	Flex Route Buses	6	6	6
	Neighborhood Circulator Buses	35	55	55
	Commuter/Express Buses	42	42	73
	High Capacity Transit Buses	0	7	7
	Accessible Supervisory Vans	5	5	5
	Maintenance Trucks	2	2	2
Total Vehicles	116	143	176	



THERE ARE *THREE IMPORTANT REASONS WHY* OUR REGION NEEDS A TRANSIT PLAN.

- 1 Is green your favorite color?** An efficient transit system helps us conserve precious natural resources, and makes us less dependent on foreign oil. This, in turn, helps us save money. As dwellers in the Land of Enchantment, we are proud of our blue skies and magnificent vistas. Fewer vehicles on the road means fewer pollutants in the air.
- 2 Our region's population is growing.** By the year 2025, more than 230,000 new residents will live in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties. A transit plan can help these new residents while keeping the transportation system moving for all of us.
- 3 And our population is growing older.** By 2030, it's forecasted that 26.4% of New Mexico's population will be age 65 or older. That means we'll rank 4th in the nation for percentage of senior citizens. We'll need transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, our grandchildren's home, and many other places. As we age, we'll turn to transit more and more.

RIO METRO NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Rio Metro wants to know what you think about this Draft Transit Plan. We're listening to you and have set up several ways in which you can provide comments.

- **Attend a public meeting**
- **e-mail your comments to input@riometrocomment.org**
- **Visit the Rio Metro website to review the complete draft service and financial plan at www.riometro.org**
- **Schedule a presentation**

DO YOU WANT A PRESENTATION?

If you want to arrange for a presentation, or if you would like to have a Rio Metro staff member attend an event, please contact:

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