

2018



**THE NEED FOR RECURRING, RELIABLE FUNDING  
FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT IN NEW MEXICO**

**Request for \$3 million annually from state funding**



Last year **16 million** trips were made using public transit;  
**1.7 MILLION** in rural New Mexico.

The largest users of public transit are people getting to and from  
**work.**

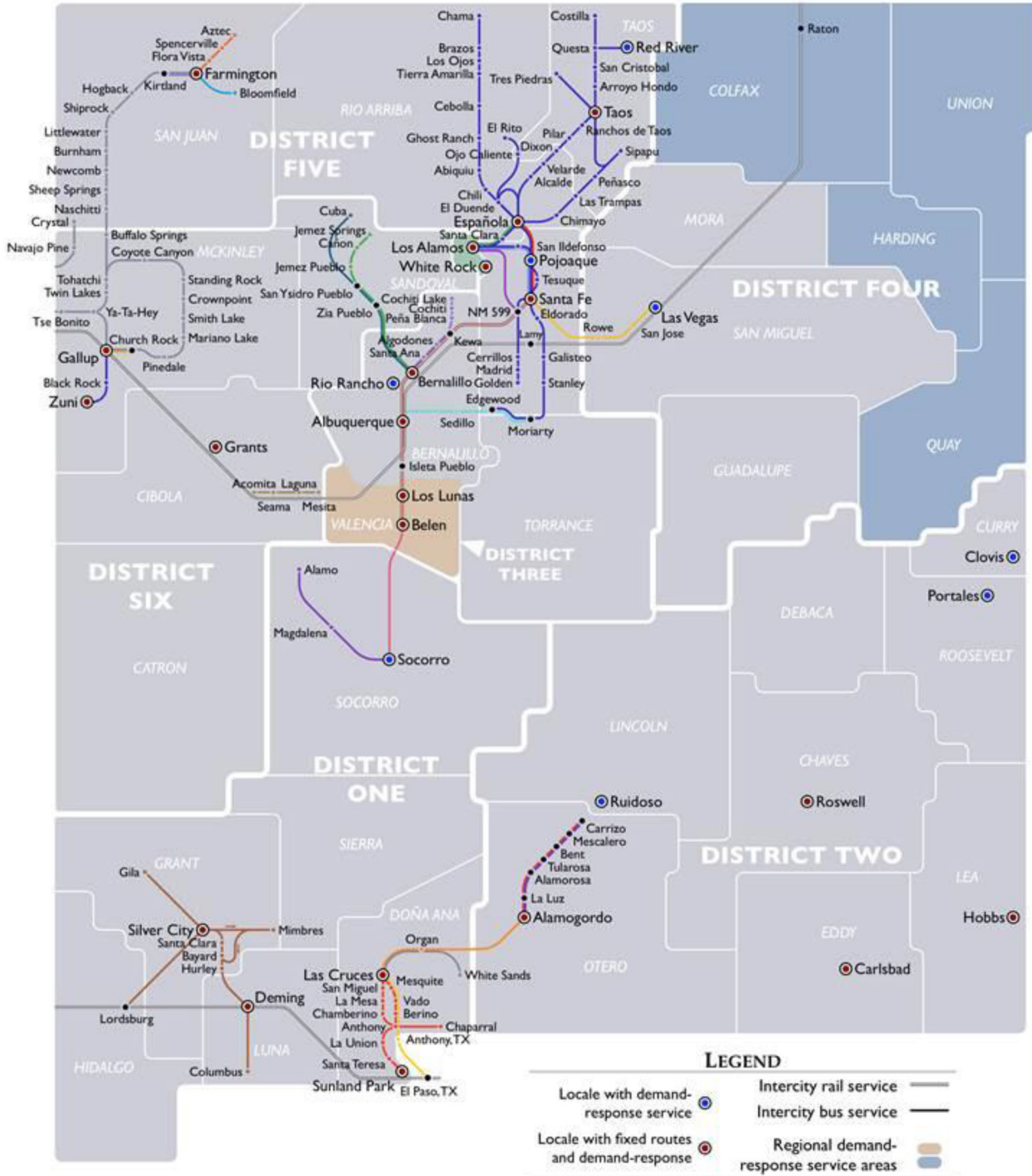
Public transit includes buses, commuter buses, door-to-door small bus service, complementary van service for disabled residents, seniors, social and human services transportation, and many other

**key mobility services**

necessary for daily life line needs.

Public transit is a **bipartisan** issue, focused on supporting the economy and the livelihoods of New Mexicans to whom transit is not only an option for travel, but is the only option to get to and from work.





Refer to individual district maps for more information on regional services.

# Why Transit is Important to NM



In addition to helping people with no other means of transportation, public transportation is widely beneficial to all New Mexicans by:

- Reducing roadway-related costs by millions per year. A New Mexico legislative report (New Mexico Legislature Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee 2016 Interim Final Report updated in February of 2017) showed that the state's road system has 53% of what is needed for construction, maintenance, and repairs. The report said to fix remaining roads would cost about \$7 billion. By decreasing the number of cars on the road, we can alleviate the need to continually increase capacity for highways and roads or the frequency of repairs due to wear and tear.
- Enabling many who would otherwise be unable to get to and from work to hold steady employment and contribute to economic growth.
- Providing access to learning and vocational schools.
- Providing an affordable, smart option for people who have been drinking to get home safely.
- Providing reliable transportation to and from work, increases the number of people who are employed and contributing back to the state through taxes.
- Enabling people to reduce their carbon footprint. According to a fact sheet in December 2017 from the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Transit and Rail Division, in fiscal year 2017, 96.9 million vehicle miles were saved because of public transportation, eliminating 46,333 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Public Transportation is the safest surface transportation option, safer than driving a car, biking, and walking.



## HOW IS PUBLIC TRANSIT FUNDED IN NEW MEXICO?

Public transit in New Mexico is funded primarily through federal and local funding. Although there are proposed annual increases in federal funding, the percentage of change is insufficient to meet the needs of transit agencies across New Mexico.



### FEDERAL FUNDING

Most Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Programs are competitive processes instead of formula grant programs and require local matches of **20% to 50%**.



AVERAGE  
**\$3 Million**  
 PER YEAR SHORTFALL  
 in Federal Funding & Local  
 Matching Requirements



- Existing Statewide Transit Agencies request more funding that exists
- Expansion of Service is not possible without Additional Funding



### STATE FUNDING

New Mexico is currently one of very few states that does **NOT** provide transportation funds to public transit providers, although the State does fund its New Mexico intercity Park and Ride services and debt service for the Rail Runner from the State Road Fund.



### LOCAL FUNDING

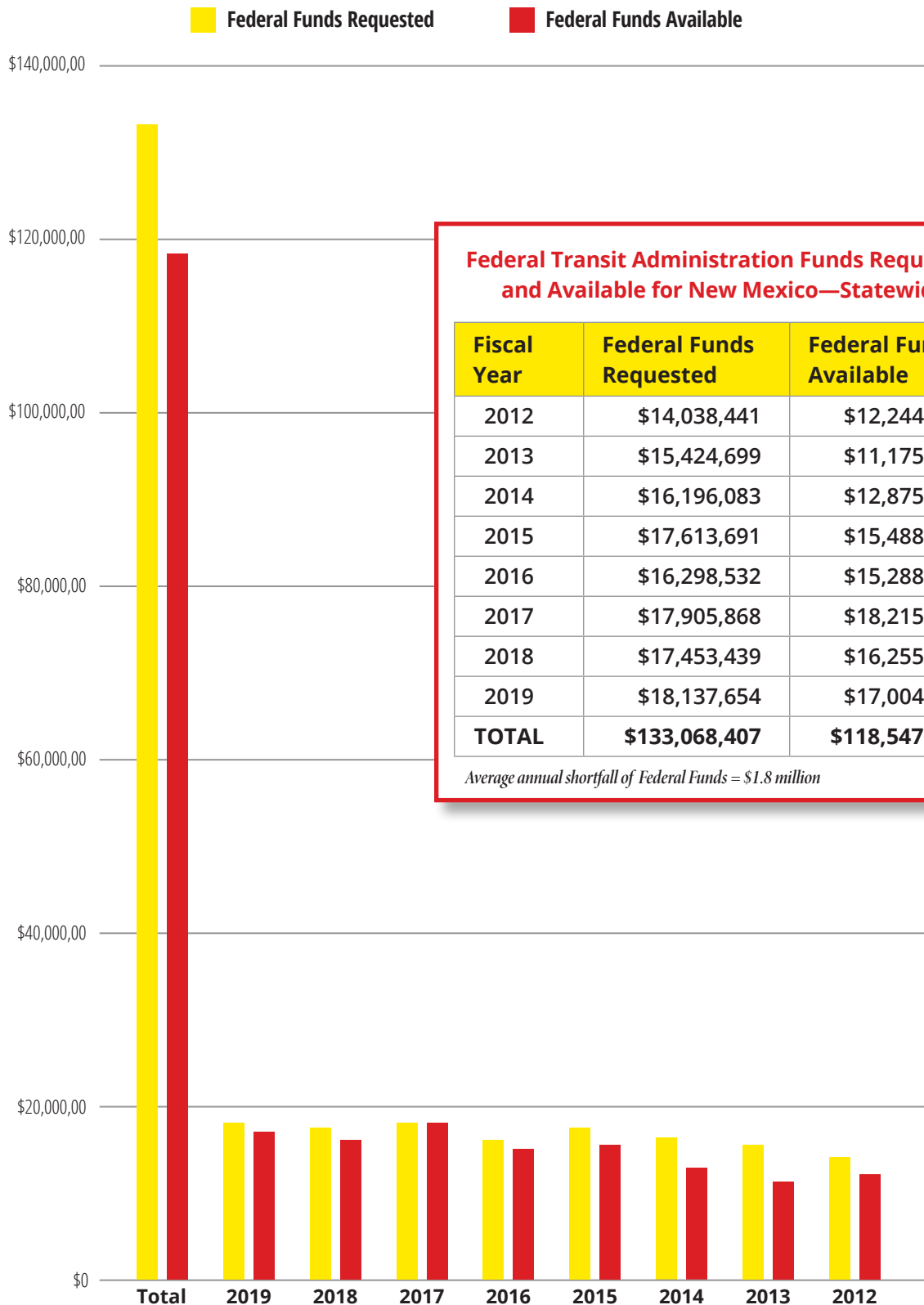
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds require matching local contributions of **20% to 50%** from local funding sources, including:

- Local Gross Receipts Tax Allocation
- Local property tax
- Lodgers Tax

# Rural Transit Funding Gap



## Federal Funds Requested VS Federal Funds Available—New Mexico Statewide



\*Chart excludes funding gap for Urban Systems in New Mexico

\*\* Sources includes 5311, 5310 plus 5309, 5316 and 5317 for 2012/5316 and 5317 for 2013/5339, 5316, 5317 for 2014/5339 for 2015/5339 for 2016

## UNMET NEEDS OF TRANSIT AGENCIES ACROSS NEW MEXICO

The funding gap for both operations and capital needs among transit agencies in New Mexico is significant. We distributed an online survey to 44 members of the New Mexico Transit Association to assess the needs of transit agencies in the state. The results below are from 14 New Mexico transit agencies that participated.



# 85.7%

of transit agencies need additional **OPERATIONAL** funds.

Average funding amount needed:

## \$215,700



# 92.9%

of transit agencies need additional **CAPITAL** funds for buses, equipment, facilities and more.

Average funding amount needed:

## \$423,250

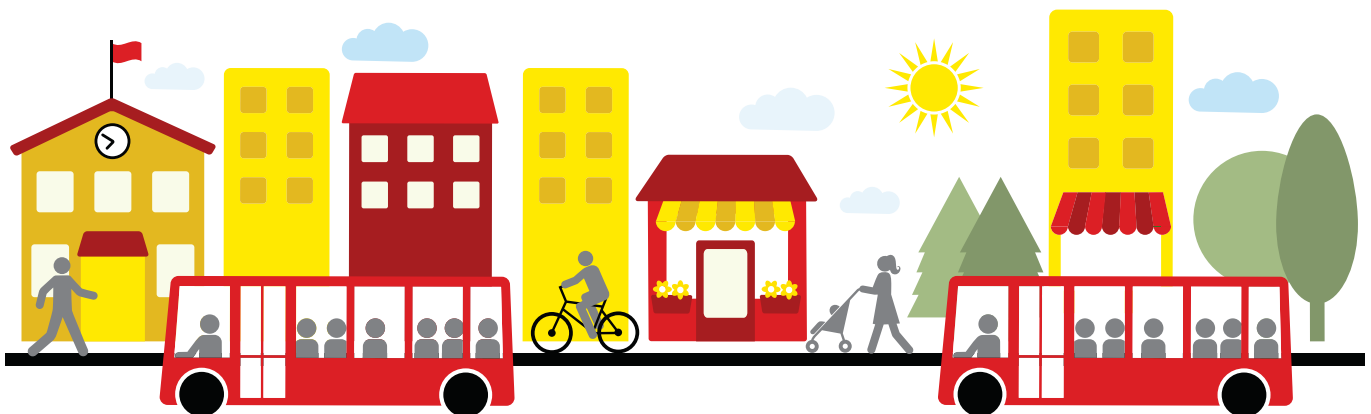


# 85.7%

of transit agencies surveyed have plans for **FUTURE SERVICES** (ex: weekend services), but do not have the local match funds to provide them.

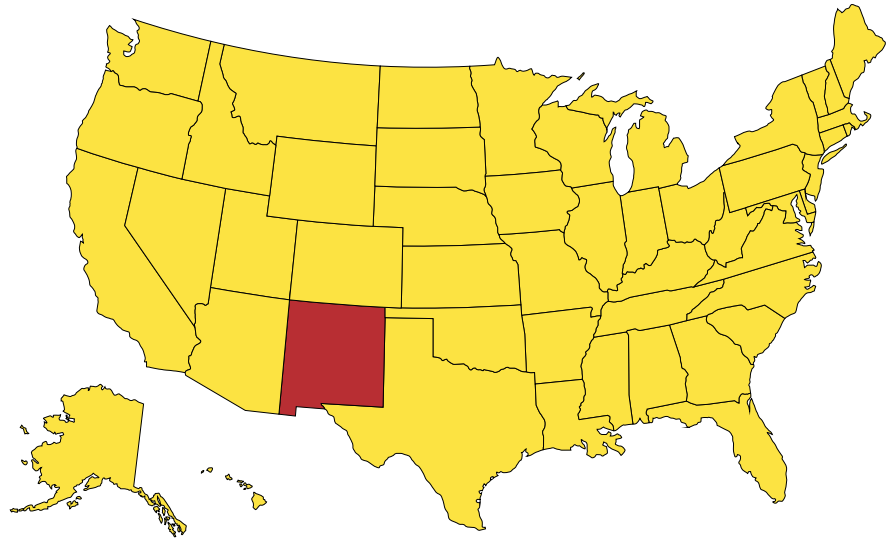
Average amount in anticipated requests:

## \$450,000





# HOW DO OTHER STATES FUND TRANSIT?\*



General Funds  
**15 STATES**



Gas Taxes  
**11 STATES**



Bond Proceeds  
**10 STATES**



Registration/License/Title fees  
**8 STATES**



General Sales Tax, Trust Funds and State Transportation Funds  
**5 STATES**



Motor Vehicle/Rental Car Sales Tax  
**4 STATES**



Interest Income and Lottery  
**2 STATES**



**FIVE OTHER STATES DO NOT** Fund Transit (*Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah*)



**23 STATES** reported that they used other sources for funding such as miscellaneous revenues, fees, or taxes, documentary stamps, and other types of assessments. Seven of these 23 states relied solely (*100% of transit dollars*) on these miscellaneous revenue sources.



**APPROXIMATELY 50%** of the states have constitutional restrictions on using selected automobile-related taxes and fees (*such as gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, etc.*) to fund public transportation.

\*Source, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 2014





Public Transportation is an integral part of New Mexico's transportation solutions. Increasing people utilizing public transit is important for the future. More people utilizing public transit means:

- Less wear and tear on the roads
- Reduced carbon emissions and carbon footprint
- Much less traffic and congestion and road rage
- Less need for road repair
- Less need for roadway expansion

Across the nation, Americans say congestion on their roads and highways has continued to worsen since last year, according to a new HNTB (HNTB Corporation, a civil engineering consulting firm). Corporation America THINKS national public opinion survey "Funding Congestion Solutions-2018" found 61 percent of Americans believe traffic congestion is noticeably worse now than just a year ago, and more than seven in 10 Americans (73 percent) are willing to pay higher taxes and tolls to fund infrastructure maintenance or new construction to help reduce that congestion. If these higher taxes and tolls are guaranteed by law to be used only for infrastructure spending, support increases to 82 percent, according to the survey."

# OUR FUNDING REQUEST



**1. Weight Distance Tax Identification Permit Fee**



**2. Increase the Gas Tax**



**3. Add a surcharge to Vehicle Licensing Fees**

There is a need for reliable and recurring funding for Public Transit in New Mexico. The above examples are methods by which to achieve this.

In NM infrastructure needs are a priority for roads and transit is a component of this infrastructure improvement and life extension efforts.