



Bill Richardson
Governor

Gary L. J. Girón
Transportation Secretary

August 31, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

New Mexico Department of Transportation Marks Start of Las Cruces to El Paso Park and Ride Service

LAS CRUCES – Transportation officials joined by state and local officials from both New Mexico and Texas gathered today to officially cut the ribbon on the new Park and Ride Gold Route that will provide express bus service between Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX. Service officially begins on Tuesday, September 1.

“With nearly twice as many commuters traveling between Dona Ana and El Paso counties as those traveling between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, it makes sense to provide a public transportation option that will benefit both sides of the border,” said Transportation Secretary Gary L.J. Girón. “In addition, people can save thousands in commuting costs, not to mention the wear and tear in their vehicles.”

“Park and Ride has proven to be a success in Northern New Mexico for many years now. It is the fourth largest public transit bus provider in the state,” said Deputy Secretary Max Valerio. “Now through the partnership between NMDOT and TXDOT, we have a viable transportation alternative that is good for the economy and good for the environment for the thousands of commuters here in Southern New Mexico.”

“This service is not only going to benefit commuters making their way to work, but it also makes it easier for students from outside of Las Cruces to get to New Mexico State University, a major staple of Southern New Mexico,” said District One Transportation Commissioner John Hummer.

To service the corridor between Las Cruces and El Paso, four 57-passenger buses would operate between downtown El Paso’s Sun Metro terminal, Anthony, TX, New Mexico State University and the City of Las Cruces downtown terminal, with plans for additional stops at El Paso Sun Metro’s West Side Transit Center which is expected to open in early 2010.

The service would include a total of 19 bus trips each weekday – 10 from Las Cruces to El Paso in the morning and evening and nine from El Paso to Las Cruces in the morning and evening. In addition, two of the stops would connect with the Silver Route that connects Las Cruces to White Sands Missile Range. Fares are expected to cost \$3 each direction, \$90 for a monthly pass or \$120 for a systemwide pass. Schedules and the purchase of monthly passes will be available online at www.nmparkandride.com.

The new service would cost approximately \$904,324 per year including fuel. A grant from the Texas Department of Transportation administered through El Paso County will provide about \$257,000 for the project. New Mexico Department of Transportation will provide the remainder of the funds that are not covered by fares. Connecting transit services will be available in El Paso by Sun Metro and in Las Cruces by Road Runner Transit.

Public seeking additional information can contact NMDOT's New Mexico Park and Ride contractor at (505) 424-1110 or visit the Website at www.nmparkandride.com.

###