



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Blue Bus Announces Service Improvements for Bus Routes in Española, Taos, Red River and Chimayó**

NCRTD to restore suspended routes and extend  
service hours in August following new driver hires

Thanks to the hiring of additional drivers, effective Aug. 5, 2024, the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) Blue Bus is pleased to announce a series of bus service improvements across North Central New Mexico.

Blue Bus service for key routes in Taos, Española, Red River and Chimayó will be restored or extended. In addition, beginning on Aug. 3, more bus trips are being added for summer service on the Blue Bus's popular Mountain Trail route serving the Santa Fe National Forest.

The NCRTD was forced to reduce bus service operations on its Española and Taos routes in January of 2024 due to a critical shortage of available drivers. Service to Red River has been suspended since November of 2021 following the pandemic which led to a labor shortage across the Blue Bus service area.

"We are pleased to take these significant steps to restore our free public bus service to communities across North Central New Mexico," said Anthony Mortillaro, NCRTD executive director. "We have made considerable progress over the past six months to recruit, hire and train qualified, and caring professional drivers and we hope to restore or expand service to more communities in the coming months."

The NCRTD is also working with Pueblo tribal communities in Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque to improve bus service routes with a goal to implement significant route improvements in October of 2024.

Upcoming service improvements include:

#### **Española area**

- **100 Riverside:** Extending service hours to operate from 5:40 a.m. to 6:50 p.m. Monday through Friday. Since January the route has been operating from 8:40 a.m. to 3:16 p.m.
- **110 Westside-Crosstown:** Restoring the route to operate from 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. M-F. The route was temporarily suspended in January.

(more)

- **150 Chimayó:** Restoring service to Las Trampas, operating from 6:00 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Service to stops in Truchas and Las Trampas was suspended in January.

### Taos/Red River area

- **310 Red River:** Restoring the route to operate from 5:55 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. Monday through Friday. The route was suspended in November of 2021.
- **340 Chile Line Red:** Extending service hours to operate from 7:00 a.m. to 6:53 p.m. Monday through Friday. Since January the route has been operating from 8:45 a.m. to 2:57 p.m.

### Santa Fe area

- **255 Mountain Trail:** Adding more trips year-round effective Aug. 3.

For more service change information visit the Blue Bus web site at [ncrtd.org/service-changes](http://ncrtd.org/service-changes) or call 866-206-0754.

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The North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) connects communities and pueblos across 10,000 square miles throughout north central New Mexico, including Española, Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Taos. The signature Blue Bus™ provides free public transit service with 28 fixed bus routes, on-demand paratransit service and MyBlue™, an app-based on-demand rideshare service for Taos and Española.

### Multimedia Assets





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