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## **UNM/CNM Sunport Transit Project**

Bernalillo County requests \$2.2 million in capital outlay from the state legislature towards project development costs for the UNM-CNM bus rapid transit (BRT) project. Project development includes environmental review, advanced design, bike and pedestrian planning and preparing a FTA funding application for \$60 million in federal funding to construct a BRT system in Albuquerque/Bernalillo County.

Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RTD) has recently completed an alternatives analysis to provide BRT service along a 6.5 mile transit corridor along University/Yale boulevards from Menaul Boulevard on the north to Sunport on the south. The UNM-CNM area is the largest activity center in the region and generates over 74,000 trips daily. The corridor serves regional hospitals, UNM and CNM main campuses, student housing and satellite parking, future retail, a regional sports complex, and hotels and offices near the airport.

The proposed project is a major segment in the region-wide transit network and would operate within a fixed guide-way, to include 13 stations, frequent, extended hour service, and an estimated ridership of more than 18,000 passengers per day. BRT systems are comparable to light rail and street cars by providing convenient and comfortable service with amenities such as platform stations, electronic ticket kiosks, and real time information displays for riders. BRT buses operate in their own median or curbside lanes and are given signal priority to avoid congestion and delays. Additionally, the project will support revitalization of the corridor by creating new mixed use/retail development opportunities.

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