



For Immediate Release
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New Mexico State Fair to Offer Enhanced Transportation Options *New Initiative Encourages Locals to Bike to the Fair*

In a city with a large population of people who ride bicycles both for practical transportation as well as for pleasure and recreational purposes, it seemed only logical to offer patrons the most convenient and secure options to "bike to the fair." Through a collaboration with BikeABQ, for the first time, the New Mexico State Fair will provide a Bike Valet at this year's event.

BikeABQ will provide the racks upon which bikes will be secured while riders enjoy the fair, and the state fair will man the racks to ensure the security of the bicycles. The Bike Valet will be located just inside Gate 4 (enter via San Pedro, in between Copper and Lomas) and provides a safe route into the fair which does not require cyclists to navigate extensive traffic within the interior of the fairgrounds. Designated bike routes along San Pedro further enhance safety options into the fair. Bike riders will be issued a ticket in order to retrieve their bicycle upon exiting the fair. Bike Valet hours will mirror the state fair opening and closing schedule and bikes not retrieved at closing will be stored overnight.

"We are excited to help the State Fair get their Bike Valet up and running this year! BikeABQ has seen a big increase in the need for Bike Valets around town for various events over the past few years and it just speaks greatly for the continuing growth of cycling in our community and our citizen's goal to live healthier lifestyles," said Austin Wetsch, President of BikeABQ.

Additionally, ABQ Ride will once again provide convenient options for patrons to take the bus to the fair. ABQ RIDE has four bus routes, including two Rapid Rides which provide a direct ride to the fair. Check the ABQ RIDE website (www.myabqride.com) for Park and Ride locations. Fair officials recommend catching the bus at the Uptown Transit Center near Albuquerque Public Schools Headquarters. ABQ RIDE also has a free shuttle from the Downs Casino gate to the Fair's ticket booths for the run of the Fair.

“We are pleased to once again partner with the city of Albuquerque as they offer direct and reliable bus service to the fair, and really excited to be able to provide the new Bike Valet. This is just one more option for convenient access to the New Mexico State Fair and we are grateful to Bike ABQ for helping us launch this new initiative,” said Dan Mourning, general manager of the state fair.

For those who prefer to drive to the fair, there is free parking via Gate 8 until it is full. Preferred parking is available for a fee via Gate 1.

The New Mexico State Fair runs September 10 – 20, 2015. For more information on this year’s fair, log onto www.ExpoNM.com.