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New Mexico State Fair to Offer New and Convenient Transportation Options

New Initiatives Help Ease Traffic Issues and Offer Alternatives to Crowded Parking Lots

EXPO New Mexico officials along with various transportation partners are offering a number of alternatives to driving your own vehicle to the fair this year.

The New Mexico State Fair was the first big local event to establish a transportation partnership with Uber for access to the fair and other EXPO New Mexico events. Uber vehicles will utilize dedicated entry gates and pre-planned routes into the fairgrounds to further expedite access to the fair. During the weekends when attendance is highest, Uber will set up their "rider lounge" with nice seating and free refreshments where Uber customers can relax after a long day of fun activities, while they wait for pick up. First time Uber riders can get \$15.00 off their ride to the fair by downloading the Uber app and entering the code "NMSTATEFAIR."

For the second year in a row, EXPO New Mexico will offer patrons the most convenient and secure options to "bike to the fair." Through a collaboration with BikeABQ, 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. Patrons can access the Bike Valet, which will be located just south of Villa Hispana, via Gate 4 (enter via San Pedro, in between Copper and Lomas). 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.

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. On weekends, ABQ RIDE also has a free shuttle from the Downs Casino gate to the Fair's ticket booths. On Saturday, September 10th, the shuttle will not run until 2 p.m. due to road closures for the State Fair Parade.

"We are pleased to once again partner with the city of Albuquerque as they offer direct and reliable bus service to the fair, and very excited to be able to provide additional transportation

options for those particularly busy weekends when tens of thousands of people are eager to get into the fair,” said Dan Mourning, general manager of the state fair.

For those who prefer to drive to the fair, there are free parking options via Gate 8 (until it is full). Preferred parking is available for a fee via Gate 1 with some additional preferred spaces inside Gate 8 also. The New Mexico State Fair runs September 8 - 18. For more information on this year’s fair, log onto www.ExpoNM.com.