**New Mexico Rail Runner to Resume Running March 8; Opening up Free Public Transportation Network for Veterans**

Veterans will be able to resume free rides on the New Mexico Rail Runner commuter train on March 8, as service will re-start after a nearly year-long suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Active duty military, veterans and anyone with a federally issued veteran or military photo ID can resume riding free of charge--provided they show any one of the following ID cards:.

* VA Veteran Identification Card (VIC)
* Driver’s license with a veteran’s designation
* Department of Defense Active Duty and Dependent Military ID card
* Rail Runner Freedom Pass

Rail runner service will operate on a limited-stop Monday-through-Friday schedule. Train capacity is limited to 25 percent, or 160 passengers. Disinfecting measures will be used on train cars throughout the day, and all passengers are required to wear a mask. For more information, go to [https://www.riometro.org](https://www.riometro.org/)

**Free Transfers to ABQ RIDE Transit System**

In Albuquerque, Rail Runner ticket stubs are also good for free connecting rides on the city’s extensive ABQ RIDE public bus system and Sun Van paratransit vans. Veterans can also get free rides any time on ABQ RIDE buses and vans by showing their VA Veteran Identification Card (VIC) to bus drivers.

Earlier this week, ABQ RIDE also began offering free rides to anyone 60-years of age or older who shows a valid driver’s license, ID card, or the department-issued *Honored Citizen ID Card.* For more information, go to:

<https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/abq-ride-free-fares-for-seniors-students-start-march-1>

**Socorro Transit System**

The city of Socorro Transit System operates shuttle service from the city to the Belen Rail Runner station. The service is free for veterans. Veterans also ride free on all city bus/van routes. Veterans must show their Identification Card (VIC) or driver’s license with the veteran designation to the bus driver. For more information, go to:

<https://www.socorronm.gov/city-services/transportation/>

**Santa Fe/Northern New Mexico**

Also on March 8, the New Mexico Department of Transportation’s (NMDOT) Park and Ride will re-establish service to support resumption of service of the Rail Runner. Park and Ride service at the Santa Fe South Capitol and New Mexico 599 Rail Runner stations will operate on a modified schedule to connect with the train service. There are no veteran discounts. For more information about fares, routes, and schedules, go to [www.nmparkandride.com](http://www.nmparkandride.com)

Veterans in Santa Fe can also ride free on the city’s Santa Fe Trails public bus system, which makes stops at the city’s four Rail Runner stations. Veterans must show their VA Veteran Identification Card (VIC) or driver’s license with the veteran designation to the bus driver. For more information, go to: <https://www.santafenm.gov/transit>.

Veterans also ride free on any fare-based bus routes operated by the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD), or “the Blue Bus,” which has service to Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, and Taos counties, and the eight northern pueblos. Buses also stop at the city’s Rail Runner stations. Veterans must show their VA Veteran Identification Card (VIC) or driver’s license with the veteran designation. For more information, go to <https://www.ncrtd.org/services/veterans-ride-free/>

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