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State Fair Offers New Park & Ride and Other Convenient Transportation and Parking Alternatives

EXPO New Mexico is pleased to announce a new “Park & Ride” option for folks coming to the New Mexico State Fair on the weekends. Additionally, along with various transportation partners, the fair is offering a number of alternatives to driving your own vehicle to the fairgrounds this year, and we strongly encourage patrons to take advantage of these options to minimize delays in getting in to the event.

The new state fair Park & Ride will be located at the southwest lot of the Coronado Mall, located at San Pedro and Uptown, and operational on Saturdays and Sundays (only), from 10:00 AM until 11:45 PM. Park & Ride is free for those attending the New Mexico State Fair, and fair patrons are encouraged to purchase fair admission online at www.exponm.com in order to avoid lines at the ticketing gate once they arrive.

The New Mexico State Fair was the first big local event in the state to establish a transportation partnership with Uber for access to the fair and other EXPO New Mexico events. Uber drivers will utilize dedicated entry gates and pre-planned routes into the fairgrounds to expedite access to the fair. Uber customers can relax after a long day of fun activities in the Uber Rider Lounge, where they can enjoy an upgraded experience and free refreshments while waiting for their ride. First time Uber riders can get \$15.00 off their ride to the fair by downloading the Uber app and entering the code "NMFAIR17."

This year the state fair is once again offering off-site parking with 200 plus spaces (open until designated spaces are full) at the Bank of the West Building at 5301 Central NE. Fair attendees should enter via San Mateo. Parking is free and open air trams will transport patrons to the fair and back at the end of their visit, and will run until the fair closes. The trams drop off patrons at the Gate 4 entrance. Off-site parking is available on Saturdays and Sundays only.

“We know getting to the event on the weekends can be challenging, and so we are really excited to bring back a true Park & Ride option which is free to fairgoers,” said Dan Mourning, general manager of the state fair. “We expect very large crowds on weekends and we want to minimize traffic issues as much as possible to ensure access for everyone who wants to attend the fair, so we encourage folks to take advantage of the Park & Ride or any of the other alternatives offered by our wonderful transportation partners.”

For the third year in a row, EXPO New Mexico offers patrons the most convenient and secure options to "bike to the fair." The free valet service is a collaboration with BikeABQ, which recently donated 10 bike racks to EXPO New Mexico for the state fair and other big events. 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 is 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 are issued a ticket in order to retrieve their bicycle upon exiting the fair. Bike Valet hours mirror the state fair opening and closing schedule and bikes not retrieved at closing will be stored overnight.

Additionally, ABQ Ride is once again providing 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.myabqrideride.com) for Park and Ride locations. Fair officials recommend catching the bus at the Uptown Transit Center near Albuquerque Public Schools Headquarters. On weekends, there is also a free shuttle from the Downs Casino gate to the fair's ticket booths.

For those who prefer to drive to the fair, there are free parking options in the infield 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 7 – 17. For more information, log onto www.ExpoNM.com, or download the new state fair app, available for both android and iPhone devices.