

Susana Martinez Governor

Alvin Dominguez Transportation Secretary

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Press Release

NMDOT Announces Grant to Improve Transportation for New Mexico Veterans

SANTA FE – Transportation Secretary Alvin Dominguez today announced that the New Mexico Department of Transportation received a \$414,000 grant to upgrade a Regional Call Center that will improve access to transit services for more than 75,000 New Mexico veterans living in Northern New Mexico. These funds will provide improved and affordable access to local transportation for veterans, military personnel and their families, via programs that will make it easier for them to find rides to work, school and medical care.

"Every Fourth of July, we honor the service of Americans who have been called to serve and sacrifice for the ideals of our country. Our returning war heroes deserve a fighting chance to support their families, participate in their communities, receive job training and get to work. Providing access to dependable and convenient transportation is one way we can thank them for their service," said Transportation Secretary Dominguez.

New Mexico's portion is part of \$29 million awarded to 64 projects being funded in 33 states as part of the Federal Transit Administration's Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, which helps local governments and transit agencies use technologies that make it easy to access and schedule rides on buses, vans, taxis and other transportation systems.

The grant funding will upgrade the Santa Fe Regional Call Center to include scheduling software, in-vehicle technology and routing to improve access to transit services for the more than 75,000 veterans who reside in the northern counties of Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Taos.

For further information contact: <u>dot.state.nm.us</u>