



City of Albuquerque
Transit Department ABQ RIDE
Alvarado Transportation Center
100 First Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102



April 21, 2008

Dear Sun Van passengers,

On March 15, 2008 for the first time in the history of the City of Albuquerque our bus fleet became 100% compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

58 new diesel-electric buses replaced 56 non-ADA compliant buses that were purchased in 1989.

The new ADA compliant buses are equipped with low-floor, wheelchair accessible ramps, space for up to four (4) wheel chairs, GPS and automatic announcement system technology.

Mayor Martin Chavez and ABQ RIDE are extremely proud of this accomplishment, as it has been a long time coming in terms of fulfilling the promise of the ADA.

The Commission for the Blind, the New Mexico Protection & Advocacy System, and the Independent Living Resource Center also welcome and acknowledge the significant measures undertaken by ABQ Ride to bring the fixed route bus fleet into compliance with the requirements of the ADA.

As ABQ Ride continues to enhance services, we recognize that a very important obligation of ABQ Ride is to provide on-going and improved SunVan transportation to eligible persons.

ABQ Ride, the Commission for the Blind, Protection & Advocacy, Independent Living Resource Center, and the ABQ RIDE Paratransit Advisory Board jointly announce that ABQ Ride will work to establish a process to review persons conditionally approved to confirm the presence of a disability as defined by the ADA.

According to the ADA, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Persons who have such a disability will continue to be eligible for SunVan services. Persons who do not have an ADA qualifying disability do not qualify for Sun Van's Para transit services, but will instead be able to use the newly enhanced fixed route system.

Additionally, the City of Albuquerque's Paratransit Advisory Board will continue its important advisory role in this process and will continue to review individual cases and appeals. This provides an important safeguard for all persons who wish to use SunVan.

As ADA compliance has been a long process, it is critical that this period of transition be thoughtful, methodical, educational and fair. While this change is not without its challenges, the ultimate issue at hand is a positive one: Albuquerque's bus fleet is compliant with the ADA.

We look forward to continued efforts to provide reliable and accessible mass transit to Albuquerque's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



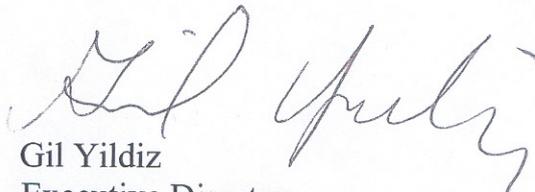
Greg Payne
Director
ABQ RIDE



Greg Trapp
Executive Director
New Mexico Commission of The Blind



Bernadine Chavez
CAP Coordinator
Protection and Advocacy System



Gil Yildiz
Executive Director
Independent Living



Viola Hix
City of Albuquerque
Para Transit Advisory Board
Chairperson