



Photo: [www.zippermergenm.com](http://www.zippermergenm.com)

## ZIPPERMERGE

CLICK HERE

TO SEE ZIPPER MERGE IN ACTION  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

### NMDOT Unveils New ZipperMerge Campaign

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.ZIPPERMERGENM.COM/](https://www.zippermergenm.com/)

The New Mexico Department of Transportation has introduced a new way of merging for New Mexicans encountering construction zones – the zipper merge.

The zipper merge is a more efficient way for traffic to move through construction zones. This helps all drivers keep moving, curtails dangerous lane switching, inconsistent driving speeds and can help decrease long back-ups and can help reduce road rage.

Research shows that traffic moves more efficiently when motorists use both lanes until the merge point then take turns moving into the open lane. A Zipper Merge reduces the overall length of traffic backups by as much as 40% and creates a sense of fairness for drivers moving at the same rate of speed.

“This is new for our state. It requires drivers to merge in a way they may not be used to,” NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Mike Sandoval said. “However, overtime, drivers will realize it will get them through quicker and more fairly.”

The NMDOT stresses courtesy on the road throughout the State as drivers adjust to the style of merging. The NMDOT realizes that the new Zipper Merge may cause some concern or outright anger in some drivers. They want to remind you to look out for each other and give your fellow driver a wave and let them merge in. “We want drivers to take a deep breath and drive with courtesy. It’s the New Mexico way,” added Sandoval.

## STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NEWMEXICO.GOV/2020/03/23/STATE-ENACTS-FURTHER-RESTRICTIONS-TO-STOP-SPREAD-INCLUDING-STAY-AT-HOME-INSTRUCTION/](https://www.newmexico.gov/2020/03/23/state-enacts-further-restrictions-to-stop-spread-including-stay-at-home-instruction/) AND [HTTPS://WWW.ABQJOURNAL.COM/1437076/CORONAVIRUS-UPDATES-MARCH-27.HTML](https://www.abqjournal.com/1437076/coronavirus-updates-march-27.html)

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced additional restrictions to disrupt the spread of the COVID-19 virus in New Mexico and instructed New Mexicans to remain in their homes or places of residence except for outings absolutely necessary for health, safety and welfare.

This means that you can leave the house for groceries, gas, or for medical appointments, but should otherwise be staying home to help “flatten the curve” and reduce the spread of the highly contagious corona virus.

During this difficult time, rumors are circulating that the New Mexico State Police and the Albuquerque Police Department are making routine traffic stops to ensure the travelers are considered “essential.” However, this is not true.

### COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Authorities both local and statewide said Friday that they are not stopping drivers to make sure their travel is “essential” in the wake of the governor’s public health order.

“This is FALSE,” State Police spokesman Ray Wilson said. “The New Mexico State Police is not making traffic stops to ensure the public or their travel is considered essential.” Wilson reiterated that people are allowed to leave their houses “while following the guidelines” of the governor’s order.

However, if you are stopped solely for the purpose of enforcing the governor’s order, you should get the officer’s unit number and report it to the non-emergency line immediately.

REMEMBER TO STAY HOME, AND STAY SAFE.



## Buckle Up New Mexico RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

**MAR 4-5  
2020**

### **Safer New Mexico Now Hosts Annual Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training**

On March 4-5, 2020, Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) hosted the annual Buckle Up New Mexico (BUNM) Recertification Training at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque. A total of 170 Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs), exhibitors, manufacturers, and traffic safety dignitaries attended the training. In addition, Jamie Pfister, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Associate Administrator of Regional Operations and Program Delivery and Maggi Gunnels, Regional Administrator for NHTSA Region 6, were in attendance in support of the conference.

The 2020 BUNM featured a variety of presentations covering important safety topics from leading experts in the field of CPS. Topics included new car seats and features updates, an update to the new CPS curriculum, the importance of car seat tests for infants before being discharged from the hospital, crash kinematics, misuse and best practices of car seats using the latest research, seat belt engineering advancements, and working with Safe Kids and Safer. Additionally, there were a number of hands-on activities to allow technicians to practice their skills.

This training is made available to current CPSTs who participate in New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) programs and Child Passenger Safety (CPS) events, and who are in need of credits to maintain or renew their certification. To maintain their certification, CPSTs are required to earn six continuing education units (CEUs) every two years. The 2020 BUNM training was approved by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, the New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Bureau, and the Emergency Nurses Association for CEU accreditation.

NMDOT leadership attended and supported the conference. Safer also received support from numerous corporate partners, including many national child restraint manufactures such as BubbleBum, Evenflow Company, Graco Children's Products, Inc. (Newell Brands), KidsEmbrace, Nuna, and Peg-Pérego.



For event photos, [CLICK HERE](#)



Due to ongoing updates to the calendar of events, please [CLICK HERE](#) or visit [www.safernm.org](http://www.safernm.org) for the most current list.

29 30 31 24 31 25 26 27 28 29

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Alcohol Awareness Month

1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Car Seat Fitting Stations: LAS CRUCES and DEMING

2

3

National Walking Day

Car Seat Fitting Stations: RIO RANCHO and ALBUQUERQUE-CENTRAL

4

**DUE TO GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM'S STAY-AT-HOME DIRECTIVE, all Car Seat Fitting Stations and Clinics have been canceled through April. Trainings for NMLETP have also been canceled. Please check our website, [www.safernm.org](http://www.safernm.org) for further updates.**

CALENDAR



Photos: <http://www.nm-ta.com/>

"This is a program that could positively impact many lives, including people who rely on transit to access medical care, social services and veteran services," Sandoval said.



### NMDOT provides \$1M to expand transit to New Mexicans in need SANTA FE

SOURCE: [HTTPS://DOT.STATE.NM.US/CONTENT/DAM/NMDOT/COMMUNITY/PRESS\\_RELEASES/PR\\_TRANSIT\\_ASSOCIATION\\_FUND.PDF](https://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/community/press_releases/pr_transit_association_fund.pdf)

Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval has authorized spending \$1 million from the State Road Fund to create a pilot program in 2020 to expand transportation services to transit dependent populations and isolated communities.

The goal of the single-year pilot program is to improve quality of life for seniors, veterans, lower income households and others isolated by geography or lack of accessible transportation. DOT will track the program's accomplishments and then evaluate its performance at the end of the year-long run.

The New Mexico Transit Association asked DOT for the funding. "This is a program that could positively impact many lives, including people who rely on transit to access medical care, social services and veteran services," Sandoval said.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham applauded the pilot program. "This is the type of collaboration that improves the quality of life for New Mexicans," Gov. Lujan Grisham said. "With this program, the Department of Transportation shows it is about more than building roads. It's about helping New Mexicans get where they need to go."

#### Approved projects include:

- \$186,000 to buy a small bus with a lift and hire a full-time driver to transport seniors between Clovis and Portales for medical needs;
- \$181,000 to create a Social Service Fare Program to provide discounted transit passes for the Rail Runner Express and Rio Metro's bus services;
- \$110,000 to buy a vehicle and hire an operator to take people to opioid treatment centers from the communities of Chimayo, Cuartelez, El Valle de Arroyo Seco, Española, La Puebla, Santa Cruz and Sombrillo;
- \$26,000 to transport Alamogordo students and residents in need of medical services to Las Cruces and back;
- \$321,000 to buy a bus and fund operating costs to support Gallup public school students;
- \$64,000 for a service to take seniors and those with disabilities from the village of Doña Ana to medical appointments, hospitals and community centers.

## New License Plate Design Protects Pollinators

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.KRQE.COM/ALWAYS-ON/NMDOT-AND-MVD-UNVEIL-POLLINATOR-PROTECTION-LICENSE-PLATE/](https://www.krqe.com/always-on/nmdot-and-mvd-unveil-pollinator-protection-license-plate/)

The New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department and Department of Transportation unveiled the state's first Pollinator Protection license plate. The new plate features student artwork is now available for purchase.

"When we build roads, we disturb the natural environment, that's why it's essential the Transportation Department invest in preserving and nurturing the plant, water, and animal habitat around our infrastructure," said NMDOT Secretary Mike Sandoval.

Sales of this new plate will fund pollinator-friendly planting projects on state roads. The project will help seed roadsides with native plants and create educational gardens as well as reducing mowing and spraying of herbicides.

The new plate features artwork by Jazlyn Smith, a sixth-grade student at Albuquerque Sign Language Academy. She illustrated a blanket flower and green sweat bee to portray the relationship between native flowers and pollinators.

The license plate costs \$25 for the initial purchase and \$15 for yearly renewal. Plates can be purchased on the MVD website.



The new plate features artwork by Jazlyn Smith, a sixth-grade student at Albuquerque Sign Language Academy.



## Pedestrian Deaths Are on the Rise – What You Can Do To Stay Safe

SOURCE: [HTTPS://GPS.UNM.EDU/GPS\\_ASSETS/TRU\\_DATA/CRASH-REPORTS/FATALITY-REPORTS/2019-FATALITIES.PDF](https://gps.unm.edu/gps_assets/tru_data/crash-reports/fatality-reports/2019-fatalities.pdf), [HTTPS://EMED.UNM.EDU/CIPRE/PROGRAMS/NM-PEDESTRIAN-SAFETY/INDEX.HTML](https://emed.unm.edu/cipre/programs/nm-pedestrian-safety/index.html)

According to the University of New Mexico Geospatial and Population Studies Traffic Research Unit, there were 42 pedestrian fatalities in New Mexico in 2019. That is a 20% increase from last year.

In response to the alarming increase, the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT) has partnered with the University of New Mexico Center for Injury Prevention, Research and Education to create "LOOK FOR ME," an initiative to increase education and outreach to communities statewide to increase the capacity for safe walking and bicycling while helping to reduce collisions that lead to injury and fatality on New Mexico public roadways.

The LOOK FOR ME campaign focuses on the fact that pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility between pedestrians and drivers. Be sure to check out the following tips on what you can do – as a pedestrian and a driver – to stay safer on New Mexico roads.

Pedestrian Safety is the responsibility of BOTH pedestrians and motorists. Here are some things you can do to avoid an unwanted meeting with a vehicle:

### Pedestrians:

- Always cross at a designated crosswalk, and only when there is a "walk" signal
- Look left – Right—Left again before entering a street, even if you have a "walk" signal
- Watch for turning vehicles at driveways and intersections
- Never assume a driver can see you; often times they don't, especially at night
- When walking at night, wear bright, reflective clothing and carry a light.

### Drivers:

- Stay within the speed limit, especially in high use pedestrian zones such as schools and urban areas
- Be extra careful when entering intersections, and exiting driveways, especially at night
- Watch for pedestrians around bus stops
- Be extra careful driving when the sun is in your eyes, at dusk, and after dark—whenever it's more difficult to See pedestrians.

[CLICK HERE](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOOK FOR ME TRAVEL SAFETY CAMPAIGN, OR FOR MORE RESOURCES ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

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