North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD)
Resolution 2018–31

A Resolution to Support Revenue Stabilization and Predictable Reporting of Tax Matters from
Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico

WHEREAS, the NCRTD was created through legislative enactment (NMSA 1978, Section 73-25-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the NCRTD is a sub-division of the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the NCRTD was approved and certified by the New Mexico Department of Transportation on the 14th day of September 2004; and

WHEREAS, The NCRTD is currently funded through a 1/8 of one percent increment of Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax (RTGRT) which is collected in Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Taos counties and provides 62% of the District's revenues; and

WHEREAS, the NCRTD Board of Directors and Staff is concerned with legislative matters at the state and federal level which could have an impact on the operations of the District and services provided to its constituents; and

WHEREAS, National Laboratories within the State of New Mexico are important drivers of local and state economies and Los Alamos Laboratory has a profound impact throughout Northern New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, the District's exposure to a change in revenues from Los Alamos County can be as high as $1,436,100.00; and

WHEREAS, the $1,436,100.00 consists of approximate $1,086,109 of the GRT from Los Alamos County and a regular $350,000 Contribution from the County to support regional efforts; and

WHEREAS, the District budgeted $7,330,000 in total GRT for the year making the $1,436,100.00 a significant impact upon the District's budget; and

WHEREAS, the tax revenues of the District are also significant funding sources for regional transit services delivered by the City of Santa Fe, Los Alamos County and the New Mexico Railrunner; and

WHEREAS, of the approximately $7.9 million in RTGRT collected annually more than $1,026,620 goes directly to the City of Santa Fe to fund City transit services including Santa Fe Pickup, Folk Art Market, Spanish Market, Indian Market, Zozobra, the Farolito Walk and Santa Fe Trails routes 2, 22 and 4; $1,466,600 supports Los Alamos County transit services for route 2, 11, 3, 4 and enhanced services and various capital needs; $2,250,000 supports the operating costs of the Railrunner; and
WHEREAS, the RTGRT is a primary source of matching funds that are leveraged to obtain additional federal funding which constitutes approximately 26% of the District's revenue; and

WHEREAS, The RTGRT was the primary funding for more than 784,946 passenger trips in FY2018; and

WHEREAS, unlike other industries in New Mexico, there is a potential for a significant destabilization to the revenues governments collect and,

WHEREAS, commuters, students, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, people without cars, visitors, tourists, and ecologically conscious persons wanting to reduce pollution and preserve the environment all benefit from the fare free transit services funded by the RTGRT; and

WHEREAS, the use of public transit reduces carbon emissions in the region consistent with the District’s environmental sustainability plan and goals; and

WHEREAS, public transit reduces traffic and wear on public infrastructure including City, County and State roads; and

WHEREAS, the District is required to balance its budget annually and to spend only so much money as it anticipates in a given fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration reviews the District budget annually and requires that the District budget be consistent with anticipated revenues; and

WHEREAS, the District does not have sufficient information at present to reliably anticipate its future revenues from commercial taxable activity in Los Alamos County; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the nature of the taxable status of any company operating the Los Alamos Lab, the District requires accurate and timely information regarding taxable activity, tax payments, refunds and other tax matters that will make significant changes to the District's revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREBY REQUESTS THAT:

1. The District seeks legislative support for revenue stabilization from Los Alamos National Lab.
2. The District seeks legislative support and assistance from any corporation operating the Los Alamos Lab to obtain relevant information about any significant impacts to anticipated tax revenues.
3. The District seeks such other and additional support from state and federal government as may be reasonably necessary to stabilize actual and budgeted revenues from commercial taxable activity in Los Alamos County.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT ON THIS 2ND DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Daniel Barrone, Chairman

Approved as to form:

Peter Dwyer, Counsel