



MOBILITY

Public transport will be free throughout the term

During this year, 4,000 car journeys per day have been reduced, and by 2030 they would double

In 2019, measures were implemented to reduce the price, and in 2022 it was finally free

MARIA LOZANO
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

The Government permanently approves free public transport for residents and Andorrans. This was stated last Thursday in a press conference by the Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné. He assessed that «it has been a measure of success, and we are very satisfied and happy», and pointed out that «citizens have seen that with this free service, their pockets are fuller in a time of inflation». The aim of the measure is «to accompany citizens and improve their executive power, while offering transport completely free of charge, a more sustainable service that allows reducing the flow of private vehicles», he emphasized.

The Secretary of State, together with the director of Energy and Transport, Carles Miquel, presented

The objective of the measure is to accompany citizens to improve their purchasing power

the balance of the use of the free bus service. So, Miquel began to explain that in 2019 a first step was already taken towards free travel, with unlimited trips per month for 30 euros. But it wasn't until June of last year when it was 100% subsidized by the Government. Thus, he commented that the number of annual trips has gone from 3,525,810 to 5,932,265, which represents an increase of 2.4 million users in one year, as a positive result of the measure and the benefits they entail for the population, in addition to the savings of up to 1,500 tons thanks to the reduction of up to 4,000 trips, and in 2030 they could be doubled, Miquel emphasized.

Miquel also argued that the «measure has made users loyal, since each person who uses national public transport does so an average of 14.6 times a month: «35% of users make more than 15 trips a and 23%



David Forné

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION, TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

«We want to accompany citizens and improve their purchasing power, while offering a sustainable service»

Carles Miquel

DIRECTOR OF ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

«The measure has made users loyal, each person who uses the bus does so an average of 14.6 times a month»

► David Forné and Carles Miquel in the press conference, the day before yesterday.

the figures

1,500 tons of CO2 savings this year

14.6 trips per month per user

4,000 reduced journeys this year

2.4 million user trips in one year

make one or two».

On the other hand, the Secretary of State and the Director of the Department explained that they want to continue improving the service beyond free, affecting quality and frequencies. That's why «over the next few months we will unify all the cards to create one», explained Forné, who also informed that «with the Secretary of State for Equality and Citizen Participation we want to create a participatory process with the population to deal with those issues that can be improved».

To finish, the Secretary of State reported that before the free expenditure was 3.5 million euros per year, but now it climbs up to seven million.

TRAFFIC INTERRUPTIONS // The municipality of Andorra la Vella informed via its twitter that during this weekend there will be traffic interruptions in Guillemó Square, and it will be diverted along Alzinaret street: today it will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and tomorrow from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. ≡

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Almost 400,000 euros for the conversion of the Prat Gran park

The Municipality of Sant Julià de Lòria has closed 2022 with a surplus of nearly two million euros.

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The Municipality of Sant Julià de Lòria awarded the remodeling of the Prat Gran children's park to Pidasa Serveis for an amount of 394,955.98 euros, a work that did not have the support of the councilors of Desperta Laurèdia, who abstained after criticizing the transfers of money from one part of the budget to another to make the project a reality. However, the corporation had initially planned a budget of 300,000 euros, which has been increased as a result of the increase in the cost of materials. In parallel, the corporation also approved the settlement of accounts for 2022, a financial year that has closed with a surplus of nearly two million euros.

With regard to the children's park, the councilor for the minority, Rossend Areny, reiterated that from the formation «we do not share his vision on the Prat Gran», since «ours is more global and contemplates a more determined and worked-out transformation» giving greater utility to the space. In the same vein, councilor Cerni Cairat explained that «our feasibility plan for El Prat Gran contemplated a project that provided a much wider service in terms of improving



►► A moment from the ordinary session of the Sant Julià de Lòria municipal council this Thursday.

parking spaces» and with a «greener park with the same games for the rascals». In the face of criticism from the opposition, the Consul Major of Sant Julià, Josep Majoral, stated that this is an initiative

«that we have been pursuing for at least two years», but that it was previously rejected «due to the high amounts requested by the companies that submitted to the competition».

Going into the details of the remodeling works, the consul detailed that «a total renovation» will take place. In fact, some of the game elements that are in good condition will be relocated in another part

of the village, probably in the area of the Bixessarri snack bar in order to respond to the demand of the residents. So, there will be separate areas for young and old and new play structures will be placed such as different slides, as well as «some equipment suitable for people with difficulties».

CLOSING OF ACCOUNTS // The Finance Minister, Maria Àngels Marfany,

The initial budget was 300,000 euros, but it was increased due to the increase in the cost of materials

reported that last year was closed with a positive balance of 1.9 million euros. In addition, total income rose to 17 million and total committed expenses stood at 18 million. All in all, Cairat regretted that, despite these quite positive results, the income of the municipality comes mainly from the construction sector, «a model that is finite». Therefore, he added, «we need the investments of the coming years to be aimed at creating new, more resilient sources of income», as reported by the ANA. ≡

La Massana will install a public Wi-Fi network in several places

It will take place in the two most crowded spaces: El Prat Gran and Plaça de les Fontetes

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The municipality of la Massana approved a credit supplement, which will be financed from the Treasury, in order to be able to install a public Wi-Fi network in several places in the parish, as requested by the schoolchildren in the Children's Council. At the moment, it has been deci-

ded to install Wi-Fi in the two busiest areas of the parish: El Prat Gran and Plaça de les Fontetes.

As councilor Marc Jové explained, apart from providing a service, «this action will have the double function of promoting tourist activities and providing coverage for the different events that take place in these two points, such as Andoflora or la Sere-nalla».

In the same session, the decree regulating the conditions of circulation and access to Pal station during the MTB World Cup was also approved. From August 20th, the access of motorhomes will be prohibited. At

the moment, the Traffic department is working together with the station team to enable parking points.

Another of the points was the approval of the addendum to the collaboration agreement between the Government and the municipality for the construction of affordable housing in Ribasol. Specifically, it was approved that the payment be made in two installments, the first during this financial year and the second, next year.

On the other hand, the Council gave the green light to the installation of new surveillance cameras in different places in the parish. The



►► . Image of the ordinary session of the council of the municipality of la Massana.

minor consul, Eva Sansa, highlighted as very necessary the area of Anita Park and the back of the Church, where several graffiti had to be cleaned recently.

Finally, an item was approved for

the new Procedures service, with the aim of enhancing the electronic headquarters and making the processes more accessible and convenient for citizens, both for the residents of the parish and the rest of Andorra. ≡

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad