

Government promotes a free night bus line to Pas de la Casa

It will be developed as a pilot test until April 30th

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

This Wednesday, the Government approved, at the proposal of the Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, the start of a night bus line that will connect with Pas de la Casa. This initiative, which will be developed as a pilot test until April 30th, aims to evaluate demand and collect specific data on the use of the line.

The new service began this Wednesday night and complements the two-night departures that have been connecting Ordino, Canillo and Sant Julià de Lòria with the National Bus Station (ENA) since September. In this case, the frequency of the night service to Canillo is expanded with a new departure at 00:00 from the ENA, while two more departures are created that connect Canillo with Pas de la Casa at 00:40 and 01:40. These new connections allow Pas de la Casa to be linked with the ENA during the night. All the timetables are available on the website www.bus.ad.

The initiative has a cost of 35,000 euros and will be managed by the company Coopalsa. Forné explained that the measure has been adopted after listening to the opinion of the Economic and Social Council of Pas de la Casa and the Cham-



The Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné.

ber of Commerce, Industry and Services, as well as following the optimization study of the public transport lines in progress. “This line seems to have



DAVID FORNÉ

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

«This line in Pas de la Casa seems to be in demand and, therefore, it is important to be able to analyze its use with real data»

demand and, therefore, it is important to be able to analyze its use with real data,” he declared.

SUSTAINED INCREASE IN THE USE OF PUBLIC

TRANSPORT // Since the implementation of free public transport in September 2022, the volume of passengers has experienced a notable increase. According to 2024 data, the total number of trips has reached 7.7 million, with a daily average of 21,000 users, figures that represent an increase of 19% compared to 2023. Overall, the volume of trips has tripled – specifically, it has multiplied by 3.14 – since the start of free transport. “This bus culture that has been created shows that we are moving

in the right direction,” said Forné, who also highlighted that the increase in passengers contributes to a reduction in traffic, an improvement in mobility and a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

As for the night service, which was implemented in September 2024, it registers an average of 156 trips per day during the week and 269 daily trips including weekends and holidays. Since its launch, the service has accumulated a total of 32,500 trips. The BN2 line, which now extends to Pas de la Casa, concentrates 45% of night trips, while the BN1 (Sant Julià de Lòria) and BN3 (Ordino) lines accumulate 21% and 34% respectively. ●

Forné is confident of reaching an agreement to avoid the Coopalsa strike

The Executive assures that it will establish minimum services if the strike is finally confirmed

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Transports has reinforced monitoring measures in the face of the possibility of a strike announced by Coopalsa drivers, scheduled for January 23rd to 27th. The Secretary of State for Mobility, David Forné, assured that the necessary efforts are being made to avoid the stoppage, highlighting that the arbitration process underway could be key to unblocking the conflict. "We are very attentive to this situation and are working to-



The Executive reinforces monitoring of the conflict.

gether with Labor and the company to ensure an agreement that allows the strike to be avoided," he declared.

Forné in response to the doubts raised during the press conference following the Council of Ministers. The Secretary of State also stressed the importance of the public transport service, defined as "basic and essential" for the population.

Forné reiterated that the Government fully trusts in arbitration as a means of resolution. "We believe that the parties can reach a consensus. We trust that this strike will not occur," he insisted. However, he made it clear that, if the stoppage is con-

firmed, the Executive will establish minimum services to ensure the continuity of public transport during the five days of strike: "In the event that an agreement is not reached, the Government will guarantee the continuity of the service by establishing minimum services that are adequate to the needs of the population."

It should be remembered that the labor conflict has its origin in the claims of the drivers, who are demanding a salary increase of between 400 and 500 euros per month and the return to the intensive schedules recently abolished. Union sources have indicated that 85 workers are willing to support the strike if negotiations do not reach a successful conclusion before January 17th, the date on which a decisive meeting is expected. ●

Health administers more than 6,600 flu vaccines and 1,700 doses against Covid-19

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The Ministry of Health has administered a total of 6,693 flu vaccines and 1,696 doses against Covid-19 since the start of the vaccination campaign, at the end of October.

These figures are positively assessed by the ministry, which is keeping vaccination open until January 31st with the aim of protecting people over 60 years of age and those with risk factors in particular.

The campaign coincides with a peak in flu infections,

as reflected in the data for the first week of 2025 (from December 30th, 2024 to January 5th, 2025), in which the incidence rate has doubled compared to the previous week, reaching 72.86 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, a figure similar to that recorded in Eu-

rope. This situation underlines the importance of getting vaccinated to increase protection against these respiratory viruses.

The ministry recalls that the vaccination campaign is aimed especially at people with chronic diseases that may worsen due to the flu or Covid-19, people with morbid obesity, pregnant women and, in general, all citizens of the Principality over 60 years of age. ●

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