



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**

*Governor*

For immediate release

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## **Governor Bill Richardson Says Senate Passage Of GRIP Means Thousands of Jobs**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today released the following statement after the Senate passed Governor Richardson’s Investment Partnership:

“The people of New Mexico will benefit from better roads, more jobs and improved safety,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I want to commend the Senate putting its constituents ahead of politics. This economic development package will mean more than 50,000 new jobs during the next seven years.”

The governor’s \$1.6 billion plan identified several priority projects that need immediate attention. They are:

- Reconstruction of the Coors Interchange along I-40 in Albuquerque.
- Adding a third lane to I-25 on both directions from Albuquerque to Santa Fe. This is especially vital to accommodate the future growth in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. We don’t want to see traffic gridlocks during peak hours. We want to look at the Santa Fe- Albuquerque corridor. Park and Ride, commuter rail and a third lane are all being evaluated.
- Four-laning US 64 from Raton to Clayton.
- Improving US 491, formerly US 666, from Gallup to the Colorado border. We renumbered this highway and now it’s time to make it safe.
- Improving US 54 from Tularosa to Santa Rosa.
- Improving US 180 from Carlsbad to the Texas border.

“Nearly every community in the state will profit from the increased economic activity resulting from passage of this landmark legislation,” Governor Bill Richardson said.

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