



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson announces capital projects for Albuquerque's west side

Albuquerque - Governor Bill Richardson announced capital projects for Albuquerque's West side today at a news conference.

"I am here today to renew my commitment to Albuquerque, and in particular, the West Side. To those of you in this fast-growing, thriving part of Albuquerque, I'm here to say as Governor, I hear your concerns, and together with your legislators, Mayor Chavez, and the city council, we will continue to work to improve your quality of life and address your needs," said Governor Richardson.

Governor Richardson announced plans to break ground on the Coors/I-40 Interchange Project by October first *this* year. The goal is to have the project completed in *under two years*- by August, 2006.

The Department of Transportation will "fast track" the I-40/Coors Interchange project. This will be done using the "Design-Build" process, which overlaps design and construction. This project includes the construction of a brand new interchange at Coors and I-40, improvements to Coors and intersections on Coors up to Quail, along with pedestrian/bicycle overpasses, landscaping, and more, if all funding is approved.

"I have instructed the Department of Transportation to not only get this project done as quickly as possible, but to do it with the fewest delays and as little disruption for West Side motorists as possible," said Governor Bill Richardson.

Total estimated cost of the project- **82 million dollars**:

- **60 million dollars** from GRIP funds,
- **2 million dollars** I requested from State Capital Investment funds,
- **1 million dollars** from Congress, thanks to Congresswoman Heather Wilson,
- **And another potential 28 million dollars** in the federal highway bill passed by the House and awaiting action by the Senate. If that money comes through, the project will be fully funded.

Open Space Funding

Governor Richardson also announced an update on an Open Space Project. The Governor allocated three-point-five million dollars in capital outlay funds to help the city of Albuquerque purchase more than 100 acres of land to build a park and preserve the area as open space. The City is moving ahead with efforts to finalize the purchase of the property, as well as additional property adjacent to this land. The city will enter mediation this week to determine a fair price for the land.

Governor Richardson added, “Hopefully, the city will be able to move forward with this important purchase, which will help preserve important Bosque land and improve the quality of life for West Side residents for years to come.”

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