



State of New Mexico *Office of the Governor*

Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$9 Million In Support Of Albuquerque West Side, South Valley Road & Open Space Projects

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pahl Shipley

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505.476.2202

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced he is recommending \$9 Million in capital outlay funding for critical Albuquerque road and open space projects. The road projects include improving intersections on Coors Boulevard between Interstate 40 and Sequoia Road, construction of the Unser Boulevard “dogleg”, and the second phase of the Isleta Boulevard reconstruction.

“I want to help ease the choking traffic congestion, improve the quality of life for Westside residents, and increase accessibility to area businesses,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “I am committed to helping Albuquerque build a consensus for a road improvement plan that can be taken to the voters with a high chance of success. If left unchecked, the infrastructure problems in Albuquerque will ultimately impact the economic growth and success of not just Albuquerque, but the entire state.”

The Governor is also proposing to help the city of Albuquerque purchase 111 acres of land in the Taylor Ranch area and preserve it as open space.

“This land has long been used as a recreation area by local residents,” The Governor added. “We will now be able to protect and preserve this property as important natural open space- and make it part of the Rio Grande State Park.”

Governor Richardson supports funding for these projects:

- \$2 Million to construct the Unser Boulevard “Dogleg”. This new segment will be constructed on top of the mesa, on the site of an old utility service road, easing congestion on Coors by giving motorists direct access to I-40. This alternative acknowledges the various concerns while adequately addressing the traffic needs of the growing west side.
- \$2 Million toward improving intersections on Coors Boulevard, between I-40 and Sequoia, a major source of backup for commuters trying to access the interstate. Governor Richardson’s GRIP Program is already scheduled to rebuild the Coors-I 40 interchange, beginning this summer, at an expected cost of \$60 million.
- \$1.5 Million for phase two of the reconstruction of Isleta Boulevard. The south valley is also growing, and struggling with decaying roadways, and must not be ignored as we work to improve our critical infrastructure.
- \$3.5 Million to the city for purchasing 111 acres of old Taylor Ranch land, to protect and preserve this property as important natural open space- and make it part of the Rio Grande State Park.

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