



# **State of New Mexico**

## *Office of the Governor*

### **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Members of East-West Conciliation Committee, Convenes First Meeting**

**Bi-partisan group includes mayors, legislators, business representatives,  
Native Americans, community members**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointments to his East-West Conciliation Committee, and attended the group's first meeting in Albuquerque. The Governor formed the committee to assist public officials and citizens of the Albuquerque metropolitan area, including Rio Rancho, find solutions to pressing growth issues, particularly those dealing with roads and transportation.

"East-West transportation problems are a local issue, and I want the solution to be reached at the local level," said Governor Richardson. "We need the city, and the entire metro area, to grow and develop in a sensible way, because the success of this area spills over into the rest of the state."

Albuquerque voters turned down a bond issue last October that would have raised \$28.7 million dollars to build and improve roads on Albuquerque's west side. The result was growing tension between east and west, with west side leaders threatening secession. The committee will work together to reduce those tensions and make sure all sides have a voice.

"We need a transportation system that serves the needs of citizens in every corner of the metropolitan area - but one built with the greatest sensitivity to our natural and cultural treasures, one that does the least harm possible to existing neighborhoods," said Governor

Richardson. “Designing that is a difficult task - an impossible task, perhaps. But, we have to work to do the best job we can in balancing everybody’s needs and fears.”

The committee will decide a meeting schedule, and create a report to present to Governor Richardson later this year. The Governor will use the report to help shape the direction of future state involvement in east-west transportation and growth.

**Governor Richardson’s  
East-West Conciliation Committee  
Members**

Mayor Martin Chavez

Michael Cadigan

Miguel Gomez

Don Chalmers

Barbara Brazil

Ed Garcia

Larry Weaver

John Hooker

Eric Youngberg

Tom Swisstack

Jeff Sterba

Laurie Weahkee

Steve Gallegos

Juan Vigil

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