



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Bill Richardson Helps Inaugurate New Stretch of Highway 84/285

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POJOAQUE- Governor Bill Richardson today helped cut the ribbon officially opening a new and improved stretch of Highway 84/285 between Santa Fe and Pojoaque. The \$85 million project started in November, 2002.

“The link between Santa Fe and dozens of communities in northern New Mexico is a critical vein in the transportation network for our region and our state,” said Governor Richardson. “This highway upgrade will improve daily commuting for thousands of workers, enhance the safety of this important route, and will provide an added spark to tourism and economic development.”

The New Mexico Department of Transportation project included widening shoulders, installing medians, building six new interchanges and constructing two, two-way frontage roads to enhance safety and improve traffic flow. The highway also features artwork from three well-known artists from Santa Fe, Tesuque, and Pojoaque.

The Governor was joined at today’s ceremony by Secretary of Transportation Rhonda Faught, Tesuque Pueblo Governor Mark Mitchell, Pojoaque Pueblo Governor George Rivera, and a number of dignitaries.

The Governor added that as part of his GRIP initiative the state will continue upgrading the corridor by improving the stretch between Pojoaque and Espanola. This \$50 million project will start next year, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.

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