



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Signs Transportation Bill to Help Local & Tribal Transportation Projects

ALBUQUERQUE - Governor Bill Richardson today signed GRIP 2 into law, providing a substantial state investment that will allow local and tribal governments to tackle most critical transportation projects.

“We will invest \$103 million on local and tribal transportation projects over the next three years,” Governor Richardson said. “This will go a long way toward helping these communities address some of their critical transportation needs that wouldn’t have been funded if not for this legislation.”

The Governor Richardson’s Investment Partnership 2 bill also includes \$53 million to supplement funding for GRIP I projects; \$14 million for road maintenance and \$10 million for funding the New Mexico Spaceport.

“GRIP I focused on state transportation needs, while GRIP 2 centers on the local transportation infrastructure needs of cities, counties and tribal governments. These two programs complement each other and will improve our statewide transportation network,” Governor Richardson said during the bill signing ceremony at the newly-opened Bernalillo County/International Sunport Rail Runner Train Station.

“I know GRIP 2 will be as beneficial to our state as GRIP 1 is,” Transportation Commission Chairman Johnny Cope said. “Local and tribal governments always make tough decisions on providing essential services to their residents, and transportation being one of them.

“Under GRIP 2, local officials can at least breathe a sigh of relief because the state will bear 75 percent of the cost to address critical projects identified by them. This will certainly help them to refocus some of their scarce resources on other needs,” Cope said.

Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught said the Department has worked closely with local and tribal officials on projects critical to them. “The projects were identified by local entities as they saw fit to improve transportation in their respective communities. We will continue to work with these communities on designing and building the projects as move forward with this project.”

Similar to GRIP I that is employing thousands of New Mexicans and hundreds of New Mexico businesses, GRIP 2 is designed to created hundreds of high wage jobs and have a positive impact on New Mexico’s economy.

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