



For immediate release
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Governor Bill Richardson Cancels DOT Project; Orders New Oversight Process

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered the Department of Transportation to cancel the Request for Proposals for its headquarters redevelopment project and to take steps to re-bid the project following two investigations the Governor ordered.

The Governor took today's action in order to structure a new bidding process that better reflects the complex nature of public-private construction projects that involve state land and millions of dollars in investment. The new process will include a three-person oversight group, which will include the Secretaries of the Department of Finance & Administration, General Services Department and Department of Transportation. That group will oversee every aspect of the bidding process for the public-private projects.

The new process will not start until the investigations are complete.

"I still believe these public-private projects can be an innovative way to serve the public better by spending taxpayer dollars on highways and public transportation, rather than paying for buildings for bureaucrats," Governor Richardson. "But it is clear that these projects are complicated and can be risky, which is why we need an extra layer of oversight to ensure public trust in what we are trying to do for the state."

The Governor earlier this week ordered two investigations into the redevelopment project and another public-private project involving the relocation of its District 5 buildings. An Inspector General review of the contract processes and an investigation by the outside attorneys hired by the Governor's Office will continue. A report will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

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