



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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## **Governor Bill Richardson, NMORR Announce \$152 Million for Additional Highway and Local Road and Local Transit Construction Projects**

*New projects funded by recovery act will create an estimated 1,400 new jobs*

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson and the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment today announced that the state will award an additional \$140 million worth of highway and local road reconstruction projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Governor also announced that \$12 million has been approved for several public transit projects across the state. That brings the total amount of recovery funding allocated to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for highway and local road and local transit projects to approximately \$264 million. The projects will create an estimated total of 1470 jobs.

“The priority is to get people back to work and to boost the New Mexico economy and these projects do just that,” said Governor Richardson. “The planning and engineering work we have done during the past six years put us ahead of other states in being ready to put shovels in the ground. We’re also in great position to secure any additional funding that may become available because other states may not be ready.”

In the upcoming months the state will award contracts for the following projects:

- U.S. 64/87 from Raton to Clayton, adding two additional lanes from mileposts 378-390; estimated cost \$30 million
- U.S. 491 from Tohatchi south to Shiprock; adding two additional lanes from mileposts 59-67; estimated cost \$31 million
- I-10 from Las Cruces to Texas State Line; adding two additional lanes for a six-lane highway from mileposts 144-164; estimated cost \$50 million (\$10 million stimulus funds, \$40 million GRIP funds)

Earlier this month the New Mexico Department of Transportation awarded \$50 million in reconstruction projects on U.S. 62/180, N.M. 128, U.S. 84/285 near Española and nearly 15 miles of reconstruction on U.S. 491. Two other projects that will start construction this summer and fall include: reconstruction of US 84/285 between Arroyo Seco and La

Puebla, and reconstruction of Paseo Del Volcan/West Central Interchange along I-40 in Albuquerque.

“We are spending the stimulus dollars where they are needed most and addressing our transportation infrastructure needs all across New Mexico,” said State Transportation Commission Chair Johnny Cope. “We have been working very closely with local governments to identify their needs and ensure the most critical projects are able to benefit from this stimulus money.”

“The Department’s readiness in identifying shovel-ready projects before the stimulus bill was signed is paying off,” said State Transportation Secretary Gary Girón. “The state has allocated all its highway stimulus dollars on nine projects that will have an immediate impact on New Mexico’s economy.”

All of these projects were part of GRIP I, and were passed and approved with the Legislature. With these projects, New Mexico will be one of the first states in the nation to draw down these critical highway funds, and put them to work to stimulate the economy today.

For more information contact S.U. Mahesh at (505) 490-0976.

Governor Richardson created the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment to ensure that stimulus funds spur economic activity, create and retain jobs, and promote long-term economic prosperity in the state. For additional information on the office and how recovery funds will impact New Mexico go to [www.recovery.state.nm.us](http://www.recovery.state.nm.us) .