



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For immediate release  
June 24, 2009

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## **Governor Bill Richardson Cuts Ribbon on I-40 Paseo Del Volcan Stimulus Project**

*Highway project is first under Recovery Act to be completed*

ALBUQUERQUE – Governor Bill Richardson along with state and local officials joined Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez today to cut the ribbon on an 8-mile stretch of newly reconstructed interstate near I-40 and Paseo del Volcan. After nearly a year of construction, the \$27 million project is the first DOT-lead highway project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to be completed in the state of New Mexico.

“I am pleased that this important shovel-ready project is the first to be completed in New Mexico under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act,” Governor Richardson said. “The reconstruction of this section of I-40 will not only serve the thousands that drive through our state everyday, but also the residents of Albuquerque’s growing Westside.”

“Projects like this really improve the quality of life for people living in their communities,” said Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez. “The investment is not only shoring up our infrastructure, it’s also giving time back for people to enjoy with their families and friends.”

“Throughout this job, about 150 people were employed by the contractor each month. In addition, more than 98,000 hours of work went into this project and more than \$1.7 million has been paid out to those employees to date,” said Secretary Gary L. J. Girón. “The economic impact of this job has trickled down the line. Not only did those working for our contractor Mountain States Constructors benefit, but so did the subcontractors—truckers were employed to haul material; asphalt companies were hired to provide material—extending the benefits far beyond those 150 employees.”

The State Transportation Department has already completed two earlier projects along this corridor worth nearly \$33 million through Governor Richardson’s Investment Partnership. Today’s ribbon cutting celebrates the completion of the final phase of work in the area. Motorists will notice the full roadway and interchange reconstruction, a new overpass, new ramps, new construction of Paseo del Volcan in the surrounding area, new

construction of Central Avenue in the immediate vicinity and realignment of Central onto the existing southwest frontage road.

The reconstruction of I-40 also extends the climbing lane that was constructed during the project between 98<sup>th</sup> Street and Paseo del Volcan further west. In addition, crews have worked with AMAFCA to extend the storm drain system to accommodate current and future development in the area.

*To date, the state has received approximately \$252.6 million for 92 state and local roadway projects. As of this month, 1,800 jobs have been created or sustained by these funds, and by the end of June, 77 projects will have started construction.*