



**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Rhonda Faught**  
Transportation Secretary

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News Release

**Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught Announces Opening of New Ramps and Intersections at I-40/Coors Interchange**

**Openings Create Improved Access for West Side Commuters and Residents**

Albuquerque – State Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught and local officials held a ribbon cutting event Thursday to open the southbound Coors Boulevard on-ramp to eastbound Interstate 40 for the Friday morning commute.

Drivers can now use the ramp to reach eastbound I-40 by traveling south on Coors Boulevard and heading to the new interstate ramps. From there, motorists can head east or west on I-40.

“We are happy this project is moving forward seamlessly and drivers will now have improved access to businesses and neighborhoods,” said New Mexico Department of Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught. “This will save precious time for commuters. Opening the southbound on-ramp to eastbound I-40 will make traveling easier for drivers and will allow construction to continue on schedule.”

One lane of the southbound Coors Boulevard on-ramp to eastbound I-40 will open March 10. Both lanes of the on-ramp will open when the project is complete this summer.

Drivers will also be able to access east and westbound I-40 from Ouray Road using a new on-ramp. Motorists will also be able to travel east and west on Ouray Road under the Coors Boulevard overpass. Local drivers who want to access Coors Boulevard should continue to use the Quail Road intersection because there is no direct access to Coors Boulevard from Ouray Road.

"The new flyover, the opening of Ouray Boulevard as well as the new intersections at Hanover and Iliff will greatly reduce slow downs on the west side," Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez said. "My administration will continue to work closely with state and federal agencies to provide infrastructure for west side growth."

Twin Mountain Construction of Albuquerque is completing the work on the \$91 million I-40/Coors project. This reconstruction is part of Governor Richardson's Investment Partnership (GRIP), a \$1.6 billion economic-stimulus package that is improving New Mexico highways while creating local jobs.

Photo and video opportunities are available Friday morning. Contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-5163 or (505) 490-0492 (cell) for more information.