



Susana Martinez
Governor

Tom Church
Cabinet Secretary

July 22, 2015

Press Release

New Mexico Department of Transportation's Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Project Wins Prestigious National Award

Santa Fe, NM – Today, The New Mexico Department of Transportation received the Best Use of Innovation Award from Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) for the Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange project. The new interchange, opened in December of 2014, includes a two-lane flyover ramp that connects northbound I-25 travelers with westbound Paseo Del Norte. The \$93 million project was a collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies and was completed on time and on budget.

“Our roads are the literal foundation of commerce,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “When we invest in major highway projects, we are creating jobs and making it easier to develop and grow our economy. This project is an outstanding example of what can happen when we commit a significant portion of state infrastructure money behind a large highway project, then leverage federal and local funding to help us complete it. We’re grateful to all those who had a hand in designing and constructing this project – they’ve done great work and this award is well-deserved.”

Governor Martinez and DOT worked with the New Mexico Legislature to secure nearly \$30 million to fund the project, which was leveraged with dollars from the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and the federal government. Crews worked day and night to have the project finished and open to the public as quickly and safely as possible. The project was finished on schedule and on budget in December of 2014.

"This was a great partnership," said NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Tom Church. "The Governor's leadership brought together local, state, and federal partners to gather the resources and collaborative relationships necessary to complete this project. I'm glad we delivered as planned. We're proud of our team that worked so hard to earn this recognition."

The America's Transportation Awards – co-sponsored by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – annually recognize the best of America's transportation projects in four regional competitions. The 10 regional winners, with the highest overall scores, will compete for the National Grand Prize, the People's Choice Award, and \$10 thousand prizes for a transportation-related charity or scholarship program. The top two national winners will be announced in September at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. This year's competition consisted of three categories, Best Use of Innovation, Under Budget, and Quality of Life/Community Development.

AASHTO represent state transportation departments in each of 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association that serves as a catalyst for excellence in transportation.

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