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Governor

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Press Release

## **NMDOT Reminds Citizens of Unauthorized Display of Signs, Signals, and Markings**

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) wants to remind citizens that state law prohibits the placement of unauthorized signs, signals, and markings on state maintained right-of-way, State Statute No. 66-7-108.

No political, for sale, real estate, garage sale sign postings are allowed on state-maintained rights-of-way. State highway right-of-way is defined as the driving lanes, inside and outside the shoulders from fencing on rural routes and to the back of the sidewalk on urban routes.

Any signs that encroach on the right-of-way, including signs mounted to fencing or sign/signal support posts, will be removed. Once removed signs will be stored at the nearest maintenance patrol yard for two weeks. If after two weeks, no one has contacted the patrol, the signs will be discarded.

Any prohibited sign, signal, or marking that interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control device will be removed for the safety of the traveling public.

Illegally placed signs, signals, or markings can restrict driver visibility, and divert the person's attention. The person responsible for unlawfully placing the unauthorized signs may assume legal liability, if linked to a crash. In addition, unauthorized signs may not be placed on private property outside of the right of way limits without the landowners consent.

New Mexico Administrative Code 18.20.5.15 NMAC, Signs and Political Posters, "Signs and political posters are not allowed on highway right-of-way and may be summarily removed from the highway right-of-way without notice to the owner, if any, thereof."

If you have any questions on right-of-way limits, roadway regulations, or where to find removed signs contact Tim Parker, Traffic Engineer for the NMDOT District Two, or Manon Arnett, Public Information Officer, at (575) 637-7200.

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