



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Susana Martinez
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**Governor Susana Martinez, Mayor Richard J. Berry, Local,
and Federal Officials Open the New Paseo Del Norte/I-25
Interchange**

Critical Transportation Infrastructure Project Completed on Time, on Budget

Albuquerque — Tonight Governor Susana Martinez joined with local, state, and federal officials to officially open the brand new Paseo Del Norte/Interstate 25 interchange, including the 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. The full interchange will be open for morning drive-time traffic on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

“Transportation infrastructure is important to local economies and to public safety, moving people and goods. The Paseo interchange serves well over 100,000 people a day and is a major artery through our state’s largest city,” said Governor Martinez. “This was an important project that will smooth traffic flow and is expected to improve the drive-time experience for commuters and families passing through this area each day. We are incredibly grateful to all those who had a hand in designing and constructing this project – they’ve done great work. And, we thank the people of New Mexico for their patience as we worked to complete this project as quickly as possible.”

Governor Martinez and the state Department of Transportation 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.

“This great project was built due to the leadership of Governor Susana Martinez and local partners, like Mayor Berry and Bernalillo County, as well as the New Mexico Department of Transportation staff, all of whom formed partnerships that worked,” said Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Administrator J. Don Martinez.

Three needs were addressed in the project: congestion relief, safety enhancements, and air quality improvement. Engineering modeling shows that drivers who use the interchange on a regular basis will now save one hour a week by not having to sit idle in traffic. That translates to 12 minutes a day, or an average of two days a year in reduced driving time.

“This project has been at the top of our list for years,” said New Mexico Department of Transportation Secretary Tom Church. “Thanks to the Governor’s and Mayor’s leadership, and the support of our local and federal partners, we’ve finally been able to bring together the resources and collaborative relationships necessary to complete this important project. Bringing it to fruition and seeing the finished product is a proud moment for our department.”

The changes will not only make driving through the area easier, they will also impact the region’s economy. Among the projected effects are \$2.8 billion in net new economic activity through 2031 in the Albuquerque area.

“It is truly exciting to see this catalytic project reach completion,” said Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry. “The new interchange is a smart step forward for Albuquerque’s future, and lays the foundation for better transportation, safety, and economic prosperity in the region. This project is a testament to all we can achieve when we work together. Many thanks to the taxpayers for investing in this important project.”

The project features six major improvements:

- A two-lane free-flow ramp to improve the eastbound-to-southbound traffic movement during the morning rush hour
- The two-lane flyover ramp to improve the northbound-to-westbound traffic movement during the evening commute
- The overpass at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Paseo Del Norte to improve east-west access and local traffic flow
- Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to provide a critical link across I-25 and connect existing paths in the area
- Improved freeway access for traffic originating from the area east of the Paseo Del Norte/I-25 interchange
- I-25 mainline improvements between the Alameda Boulevard and Jefferson Street interchanges to improve safety and traffic flow

The design-build team of Kiewit New Mexico, Bohannon Huston Inc., and Terracon, all New Mexico firms, constructed the project.

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