



**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Rhonda Faught**  
Transportation Secretary

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**Press Release**

**Secretary Faught Celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Interstate System by opening the GRIP Interstate 25/Tramway Interchange**

PUEBLO OF SANDIA -- New Mexico Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the interstate system by opening of the newly reconstructed GRIP Interstate-25/Tramway Interchange today. Major construction on this new interchange is expected to be completed three months ahead of schedule.

“Half a century ago today, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act that paved the way for the interstate system as we know it today,” Faught said. “New Mexico is among the top 14 states with the greatest amount of construction improvement on its interstates. It’s only fitting that today we celebrate the 50<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the interstate system while opening this newly reconstructed interchange. I am committed to continuing to improve our state highways, interstates and transportation systems.”

New Mexico’s Interstate Highway System, which saves state residents \$4 billion each year, has been the most important link in the state’s transportation network for the past 50 years, according to TRIP, a national nonprofit transportation research group. The interstate system saves each state resident \$2,086 a year in safety benefits, saved time, reduced fuel and lower consumer costs.

The NMDOT will continue to renovate interstates, state highways and local roads to reduce traffic congestion, improve traffic safety and make driving conditions better for residents, Faught said.

The \$15.5 million GRIP I-25/Tramway Interchange Reconstruction, which began in September, is part of that effort. Albuquerque based contractor A.S. Horner is working on this project. The work created three lanes on I-25 at the interchange and widened Tramway Road beneath the interstate. Crews replaced stop signs at Tramway Road with traffic signals. Major construction work is expected to be finished in about a week, while crews will continue to work on striping lanes, paving and other minor work.

Before the work, the southbound bridge of I-25 was constructed in 1955 and northbound bridge was built in 1958. The bridges comprised four lanes of I-25, with two lanes going north and two lanes leading south. Another \$61 million GRIP project that will begin in another year involves widening the interstate to three lanes between the interchange and Bernalillo. The I-25/Tramway Interchange project involved cooperation with the Pueblo of Sandia. The project is part of Governor Richardson’s Investment Partnership (GRIP). GRIP is a \$1.6 billion highway and transportation infrastructure improvement package that includes 40 highway and transportation projects across New Mexico.

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