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Press Release

## **Speed limit change coming for U.S. 54 north of Tularosa**

Beginning Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, the speed limit on U.S. 54 between Tularosa and Carrizozo will be raised to 65 mph in order to reflect current speeds observed there and to accommodate the new roadway alignment design for improved sight distance and shoulder width.

Speed studies in the area have shown that 85 percent of traffic is traveling at or greater than 55 mph, the current posted speed. The highway in that area has limited side access, was recently reconstructed from mile post 82 to mile post 94; and from mile post 107 to mile post 118 (between Tularosa and Carrizozo), and the new speed will accommodate this section of roadway.

Anticipated reconstruction of the existing section of roadway from mile post 94 to mile post 107 is scheduled to start in the spring of 2013; the posted speed in this section will not be increased until the completion of this project.

New signs for the area are being prepared and will be installed by the end of the week. NMDOT remind motorists to follow the basic speed law and drive according to the current road conditions.

NMDOT by law can establish speed limits based on roadway characteristics and speed study analysis.

For up-to-date road advisory information, visit the NMDOT road advisory web site at [nmroads.com](http://nmroads.com).

For questions or comments contact Manon Arnett, Public Information Officer for the New Mexico Department of Transportation District Two at (575) 637-7200.

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