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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Pedestrian Improvements and Bridge work coming to Artesia**

**ARTESIA** – In order to improve pedestrian safety and mobility in the town of Artesia, the New Mexico Department of Transportation will begin construction on an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian improvement project this spring on U.S. 285 from Hermosa Street to Richey Ave, as well as a bridge rehabilitation project along the corridor at the Eagle Draw Bridge.

The improvement work will consist of a new traffic signal at Hermosa, bridge rehabilitation at Eagle Draw, and reconstructing the intersection corners, including; sidewalk ramp, curb, and gutter, upgrade pedestrian buttons, signing adjustments, and striping. Traffic control for pedestrians and vehicles will be maintained throughout the project.

During the project, motorists can expect a one-lane closure and short delays between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Directional detour signs will go up, notifying pedestrians and motorists of work. Access to businesses and residents will be maintained throughout the project, as well as ADA accessibility at all intersections.

According to standards set by the American with Disabilities Act, streets must contain street ramps. Work on this \$5 million project is expected to be completed next fall, weather permitting.

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