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Governor

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Transportation Secretary

**September 28, 2012**

PRESS RELEASE

**Walk and Roll to School**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
*Safe Routes to School*

**Las Cruces:** The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is encouraging students, parents and volunteers to join in on our annual Walk and Roll to School Day, which is scheduled to take place Wednesday, October 3, 2012. Walk and Roll to School is an event celebrated around the United States promoting an alternative form of transportation for student in getting to, and from school. Participants can walk, bike, skate, skateboard, or use a scooter. Walk and Roll to School Day is part of the safe Routes to School program, a federally-funded program that promotes safe walking and bicycling to school.

The NMDOT and local law enforcement understand that there will be a high number of individuals participating in Walk and Roll to School Day. Therefore, as drivers we must remember our ABC's: Always Be Cautious. Drivers are asked to be attentive to their speed by slowing down near and around school zones, to buckle up and use a hand-free device when talking on a cell phone and don't text.

Trent Doolittle, District One Engineer, said, "In the Las Cruces/Mesilla school district there are 10 schools registered and a total of 13 schools for the NMDOT District 1 office, which has increased since last year. The Safe Routes to School program continues to grow each year with increasing involvement from their students, staff and parents making an initiative to walk or bike to school. While it is important that drivers be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists every day, particularly in the area of schools, please take extra precautions on the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Walk and Roll to School day."

In Las Cruces students, staff and parents of Conlee Elementary and Mesilla Elementary will have student volunteers from the Las Cruces High School Basketball team. To get additional information on you can participate with these schools and others within your area; please visit [www.walkbiketoschool.org/go/whos-walking/2012/NM](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/go/whos-walking/2012/NM) .

For more information on Safe Routes to School you may contact Jessica Griffin, NMDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator at (505) 476-2155, or information regarding this release contact Bridget Spedalieri, NMDOT District One Public Information Officer at (575) 525-7340.

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