



Susana Martinez
Governor

Tom Church
Cabinet Secretary

April 15, 2013

Press Release

Roadblock Cleared for Federal Aid Highway Projects

Santa Fe- Long-standing problems concerning the transfer of federal lands and mineral interest for Federal Aid Highway Projects have finally been solved. These problems involved inconsistencies between the various BLM Districts and Field Offices in processing the Federal Land Transfer requests in addition to inconsistencies with federal regulations.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management – New Mexico (BLM-NM) and the Federal Highway Administration initiated discussions in the late 2000s to develop an extensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the use of federal lands and minerals for federal aid projects.

A task force was organized in September of 2010, to identify each agency's needs and formulate those needs into an agreement. The agencies are pleased to announce that they have recently resolved the differences and arrived at an agreement on a MOU which was signed today.

The new MOU establishes an operating procedure on the application process and will accelerate project delivery on federal aid projects. The new process takes as little as a month, where the old process was much longer and sometimes delayed because of the inconsistency with federal requirements in the process.

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