



**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**Tom Church**  
Cabinet Secretary

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Press Release

## **Governor Susana Martinez Announces Funding to Complete Highway 491 Corridor**

*Project Improves Highway Safety and Infrastructure for Growing Economy*

**Mile Marker 41.8, Highway 491** — Today Governor Susana Martinez announced new funding has been made available to complete safety and infrastructure improvements to an important transportation route in New Mexico. The Highway 491 Corridor runs from Gallup to Shiprock. Improvements to this corridor will increase safety, efficiency and economic development for the highway, surrounding communities and the State of New Mexico.

“Highway 491 is an important highway for families and businesses in Northwestern New Mexico, and the Four Corners Region,” said Governor Martinez. “This funding will help complete safety and infrastructure updates to this important road, making drivers and passengers safer and supporting economic growth not only in the region, but across New Mexico as well.”

For more than 20 years, the state has been working to reconstruct the entire two lane corridor into one that is four lanes. The project is 70% complete. The New Mexico Department of Transportation recently issued \$80 million in new money revenue bonds to fund certain eligible highway projects, including Highway 491. Today the Governor announced that \$78 million has been made available for the US 491 Corridor.

The major safety improvement consists of:

- Building two additional lanes to increase capacity from two lanes to four lanes
- Medians separating the northbound and southbound lanes;
- Developing acceleration and deceleration lanes in congested and high traffic areas;
- and
- Improving drainage to prevent water from overtopping the roadway

Highway 491 is a vital route for supporting economic development from Gallup through the Four Corners area. A four-lane corridor from Gallup to Shiprock will allow for more efficient transport of coal, oil and other goods from the Four Corners area along this highway. The finished corridor will also help the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project that is designed to meet the long-term water supply needs of 43 chapters of the Navajo Nation and the City of Gallup.

“The finished corridor will provide the infrastructure needed to create a rural economic corridor,” said Governor Martinez.

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