



**Michelle Lujan
Grisham**
Governor

Michael R. Sandoval
Cabinet Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Improvement project on U.S. 285 begins this summer

LOVING – A four phase project to rebuild portions of U.S. 285 in Eddy County will begin August 3rd. The first two phases will take place between mile markers 0 to 7 and 16 to 18 along the U.S. 285 corridor for nearly \$56 million.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation, City of Carlsbad, Eddy County, Permian Strategic Partnership, Permian Road Safety Coalition, and several others identified a need to expand the road for safety improvements. This project is one of the top priorities in the area.

"I have committed over and over to delivering essential roadway improvements to southeast New Mexico," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "And in my term we have already secured more than ten-fold the previous spending for that portion of our state, for our neighbors there who are so often the economic driver of our state, who provide so much for all of us. We will continue to build up and build out southeast New Mexico, and this project is only a start."

"I am extremely pleased to see this project get off the ground," said Department of Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. "This is a project that is much anticipated and will support our oil and gas industry and local communities in Southeastern NM. Thanks to all that helped make this happen."

The first phase of work from mile markers 0 to 7, will require lane closures to allow trucks to haul material to the work zone and build detours for emergency vehicles and through traffic. Traffic will be restricted to one lane between mile markers 16 to 18 while the bridge replacement portion of the project takes place.

The speed limit in the construction zone will be reduced to 50 miles per hour. Delays are expected and motorists are asked to obey flaggers and warning signs.

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