



**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Gary L. J. Girón**  
Transportation Secretary

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Crews Ahead of Schedule on Interstate 40 West Central Interchange ARRA Project**

*Full closures of I-40 expected this week to demolish old overpass*

ALBUQUERQUE – State Transportation Secretary Gary L.J. Girón announced today that crews are ahead of schedule on the Interstate 40 project that broke ground in June.

“Over the last six months, crews have been working diligently and have exceeded expectations for this project. At the halfway point, crews were actually 85 percent complete with construction,” said Secretary Girón. “Upon completion, this project will ease traffic to the growing West Mesa population.”

On Wednesday, December 9, traffic was switched onto the newly constructed Paseo Del Volcan bridge, with the old bridge scheduled to come down this week. Motorists can expect full closures of Interstate 40 through the project on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to demolish the old overpass. The interstate in both directions is in the original alignment from mile marker 148 to 149 (Exit 149 Paseo Del Volcan), maintaining two lanes in each direction, throughout the remainder of the month.

This \$27 million project, which will complete the final phase of work in the area, was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Upon the completion of the full roadway and interchange reconstruction, motorists will notice a new overpass, new ramps, new construction of Paseo del Volcan in the surrounding area, new construction of Central Avenue in the immediate vicinity and realignment of Central onto the existing southwest frontage road.

The reconstruction of I-40 will also extend the climbing lane that was constructed during the most recent project between 98<sup>th</sup> Street and Paseo del Volcan further west. In addition, crews will work with AMAFCA to extend the current storm drain system to accommodate current and future development in the area.

For up-to-date traffic information visit [www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com) or dial 511. For more information contact Phil Gallegos (505) 841-2764 or Megan Arredondo at (505) 660-2073.