

New Mexico Truckers Guide



***NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (NMDOT)***

***NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY (NMDPS)***

This booklet has been printed for use by the Trucking Industry and other parties interested in the motor carrier operations in New Mexico.

Any commercial motor vehicle traveling on New Mexico highways, whether licensed in New Mexico or another jurisdiction, are required to familiarize to various statutes, regulations, and other trucking related requirements. The information in this booklet will help benefit and recognize what is required to legally operate vehicles in or through New Mexico, all while functioning safely and efficiently.

The information in this booklet has been condensed from the New Mexico Motor Transportation Act, the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Code, the New Mexico Administration Act, and other statutes and regulations that apply to the trucking industry. Although we have made an effort to include all pertinent trucking requirements, it is not our intent to circumvent or supersede any legal requirement imposed by law or regulation.

Therefore, if anything in the booklet is uncertain, please contact NMDOT Permit Office at (505) 476-2475 X1. Booklet can also be found on either one of the links below.



TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW
Definitions

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE PORT OF ENTRY:
Enforcement
Operations
What Documents must be presented
Fees and Charges

SIZE AND WEIGHT:
Legal Size Limits
Legal Weight Limits
Permits for Excessive Size or Weight

CAB CARDS, REGISTRATION PLATES, ETC.:
New Mexico Weight Distance Permit
New Mexico Based Vehicles
International Registration Plan (IRP)
Operating-for-hire

SAFETY:
Minimum Equipment/Driver Inspection
Hazardous Materials
Commercial Driver's License



**PORT OF ENTRY OPERATIONS &
GENERAL TRUCKING ENFORCEMENT**
New Mexico Department of Public Safety
4490 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505)-827-9300

EXCESSIVE SIZE AND WEIGHT PERMITS

New Mexico Department of Transportation

PO Box 1149

Santa Fe New Mexico 87504

(505) 476-2475

<https://permits.dot.state.nm.us>

VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS & WEIGHT DISTANCE PERMITS

Commercial Vehicle Bureau/ Motor Vehicle Division

P. O. Box 1028

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1028

(505) 827-0392

<https://tap.state.nm.us>

VEHICLE AND DRIVER SAFETY REQUIRMENTS

New Mexico Department of Public Safety

P. O. Box 1628

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1628

(505) 827-9277

Fax: (505) 827-9279

INTRASTATE AUTHORITY REQUIREMENTS

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Transportation Department

P. O. Box 1269

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1269

1-(888) 427-5772

SAFER-Safety and Fitness Electronic Records FMCSA-Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

2440 Louisiana Blvd. NE Suite 520

Albuquerque, NM 87110

(505) 346-7858/ 1-(800) 832-5660 <https://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT)

NMSP and NMDOT support the Truckers Against Trafficking initiative. The link provided has a national hotline for information and inquiries.

<https://dot.state.nm.us>

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- CDL** Commercial Driver's License. A driver's license, issued by the driver's base state that specifies the type of commercial vehicle that may be operated and includes additional driver information.
- Commercial Motor Vehicle** Any self-propelled or towed vehicle, other than special mobile equipment, used on public highways in other than special mobile equipment used on public highways in commerce to transport passengers or property when:
- (a) The vehicle is operated interstate and has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more whichever is greater; or the vehicle is operated only in intrastate commerce and has a gross vehicle weight rating, or gross combination weight rating or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight of 26,001 or more pounds whichever is greater; or
 - (b) Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver); for compensation; or
 - (c) Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, (including the driver) and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
 - (d) Is used in transporting material found by the secretary of transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, Chapter I, subchapter C;
- CVSA** Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. An association of United States, Canada, and Mexico commercial vehicle enforcement program managers and industry advisors who set safety standards and out-of-service criteria for vehicles and drivers.
- CVSA DECAL** A decal (sticker) issued to a vehicle that passed a thorough "Level 1" safety inspection
- FMCSA** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION CARRIER** A motor carrier who transports goods, or provides services for compensation

GROSS WEIGHT	The total weight, including vehicle and load. If a combination, then total weight of tractor and trailer(s), plus load thereon.
IRP	International Registration Plan. A vehicle registration plan under which an interstate motor carrier can register in their base state and at the same time meet the registration requirements for all IRP member state in which the motor carrier operates.
INTERSTATE	The trade, traffic or transportation of commodities or the movement of vehicles across state and/or national boundaries.
INTRASTATE	The trade, traffic or transportation of commodities or the movement of vehicles entirely within one state.
MCSAP	Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. New Mexico's Federally funded driver and vehicle safety program.
MOTOR CARRIER	Any person that owns, controls, operates or manages any motor vehicle with gross vehicle weight of twelve thousand pound or more that is use transport person or property on the public highways of this state.
MPRC N	New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. The commission issues authority for motor carriers to operate for hire in New Mexico.
POE	Port of Entry
PRIVATE CARRIER	A motor carrier who transports his own loads, using his motor vehicles, or vehicles leased to him via an approved written lease agreement; not for hire.
RANDOM INSPECTION	An inspection conducted to assess the safety of the drivers and vehicles, or vehicles operating in New Mexico. Vehicles with current CVSA stickers are subject to this inspection.
SHIPPING PAPERS	A formal document that details the commodities being transported. These papers may include information on the shipper and receiver of the commodities, and any other pertinent information. Shipping papers may also include any legal certificates or permits that may be required to be carried in the vehicle.

SINGLE AXLE	One axle, extending the full width of the vehicle, onto which are affixed two or more tires. A single axle can be a “steering” axle or a load bearing axle. A single axle may also consist of more than one axle whose wheelbase is less than forty (40) inches
SPECIAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT	Special Mobile Equipment means a motor vehicle constructed from the ground up as machinery and not designed or used for the transportation of persons or property. Such equipment is operated on the highway only incidental to its use off road. The mounting of off road equipment on a standard truck or other chassis does not qualify a vehicle for an exemption as special mobile equipment.
TANDEM AXLE	Two or more axles having a wheel base of at least 40” apart and less than one hundred twenty inches (120”) apart
TRD	New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Department
WEIGHT DISTANCE PERMIT	This is a highway tax based on vehicle weight and miles traveled on New Mexico roads. Companies must register and apply each year for a New Mexico Weight Distance Permit.

ENFORCEMENT & OPERATIONS

The New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVEB) is the lead agency for commercial motor vehicle safety in New Mexico. CVEB is organized by twelve (12) geographical districts, each supervised by a Captain. Certified Law Enforcement Officers are commissioned officers that patrol New Mexico highways ensuring compliance with NM State Law and Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations.



NMSP DISTRICT OFFICES

- DPS HQ Santa Fe (505) 827-9300**
- DISTRICT 1 Santa Fe (505) 827-3476**
- DISTRICT 2 Las Vegas (505) 425-6771**
- DISTRICT 3 Roswell (575) 622-7200**
- DISTRICT 4 Las Cruces (575) 382-2500**
- DISTRICT 5 Albuquerque (505) 841-9256**
- DISTRICT 6 Gallup (505) 863-9353**
- DISTRICT 7 Espanola (505) 753-2277**
- DISTRICT 8 Alamogordo (575) 437-1313**
- DISTRICT 9 Clovis (575) 762-1305**
- DISTRICT 10 Farmington (505) 325-7547**
- DISTRICT 11 Socorro (575) 835-0741**
- DISTRICT 12 Deming (575) 546-8548**

Ports of Entry in NMSP Districts

***Locations are 24/7**



DISTRICT 1: Santa Fe- OS/OW Permit Office	(505) 476-2475
DISTRICT 2: Clayton Raton	(575) 374-9341 (575) 445-8419
DISTRICT 3: Hobbs Carlsbad	(575) 393-4362 (575) 885-2026
DISTRICT 4: Anthony* Santa Teresa	(575) 882-2471 (575) 589-3595
DISTRICT 6: Gallup*	(505) 905-2365
DISTRICT 8: Oro Grande	(575) 313-7658
DISTRICT 9: San Jon* Texico Nara Visa	(575) 576-2743 (575) 482-3271 (575) 633-2929
DISTRICT 12: Lordsburg*	(575) 542-8811

WHAT DOCUMENTS MUST BE PRESENTED

The following documents and information must be available for inspection by a DPS-CVE officer or an Inspector at a port of entry:

WEIGHT DISTANCE

If the electronic permit is not acquired, trip fees will be assessed. All New Mexico based vehicles are required by law to have a WD E- Permit if the gross weight of the vehicle or vehicle combination exceeds 26,000 pounds.

IRP CAB CARD

A vehicle registration card issued by the carrier's base state. This card certifies that the vehicle is correctly registered in the listed jurisdictions.

SHIPPING PAPERS/BILL OF LADING

A document that describes the load being transported, the shipper of the load, the weight of load, the consignee (receiver) of the load and the transporter of the load.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

Valid at the current date and issued for proper class of vehicle being driven, with necessary endorsements. Any driver not possessing a current and valid CDL will be placed "out-of-service" and may be cited and fined.

RECORD OF DUTY STATUS (Log Book/ ELD)

The log book must be current and up to the last change of duty status.

SINGLE STATE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (SSRS)

The SSRS is the document for insurance and authority for states listed on the certificate.

FEES AND CHARGES

If the driver of the vehicle cannot present the documentation identified in the previous section, fees or fines may be assessed or citations may be issued. The fees/fines/citations, or other corrective action will vary depending on the nature of the violation. The following is a brief overview of these fees.

SPECIAL FUEL PERMIT

If the driver does not present a valid IFTA Decal or License and the vehicle is special fuel powered, a \$5.00 temporary special fuel permit fee will be assessed. The permit is valid for up to forty-eight (48) hours (or one entry and one exit of the state).

SPECIAL FUEL TAX

If the driver does not present a valid IFTA Decal and Tax Identification Permit, a special fuel tax will be assessed. The tax is currently five cents (\$.05) per mile, based on the miles to be operated in New Mexico.

TRIP TAX

If the driver does not possess a valid Weight Distance Permit, the trip tax will be assessed. The tax is based on miles to be operated in New Mexico and the total gross weight of the vehicle combination. The tax per mile is:

Gross Vehicle Weight:	Tax Per Mile:
12,001 to 26,000 lbs.	\$0.07
26,001 to 54,000 lbs.	\$0.12
54,001 to 72,000 lbs.	\$0.15
72,001 and above	\$0.16

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

All vehicles must have a valid registration document.

CARAVAN FEE

A fee assessed against operators of unregistered or unlicensed motor vehicles intended for resale. The fee is \$7.00 or \$10.50 depending upon the configuration. In some cases, the fee is waived if the vehicles are being transported under manufacturer's tags, dealer tags, etc. from states with which New Mexico has a bilateral agreement.

OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMIT FEE

Single Trip Oversize Permit Fee is \$25.00.
Single Trip Overweight Permit Fee is \$25.00.
Exceeding 86,400 lbs.
Fee: \$.025 per ton/mile

Multiple Trip Permit selections are available for combination vehicles not to exceed the following dimensions:

140,000 lbs.
14' Wide
15' High
120' Long
15' Front overhang
25' Rear overhang

Multiple Trip Permit is \$250.00.

The term is based off the certificate of liability insurance but not to exceed one year.

INSURANCE

The requestor must have proof of adequate insurance coverage. A certificate of insurance, reflecting at least the minimum coverage should be kept in the vehicle. The certificate of insurance shall indicate the following minimum coverage:

- (1) Bodily injury liability in the amounts of \$50,000.00 for each person and \$100,000.00 for each accident ;and
- (2) Property damage liability in the amount of \$25,000.00

IMPORTANT: If a commercial motor vehicle is encountered in New Mexico without the required documentation, is not correctly licensed, is unsafe, or the vehicle or driver are not in full compliance with New Mexico requirements, citations or fines may result. In addition, depending upon the severity of the violation, the vehicle or driver may be detained until the required credentials are obtained or corrective action taken.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

New Mexico regulates the size and weight of vehicles which will operate on the streets, roads and highways of the state. The only vehicles that will be permitted to operate are those that conform to legal size and weight limits.

LOADS MUST BE IRREDUCIBLE

An OS/OW permit will not be issued for a reducible, non-liquid load that can be shifted or unloaded to become legal; Load(s) that can be transferred to another trailer or equipment that will make them legal. The disassembling of a load into legal dimensions, then moving the load in multiple trucks/trailers may be required.

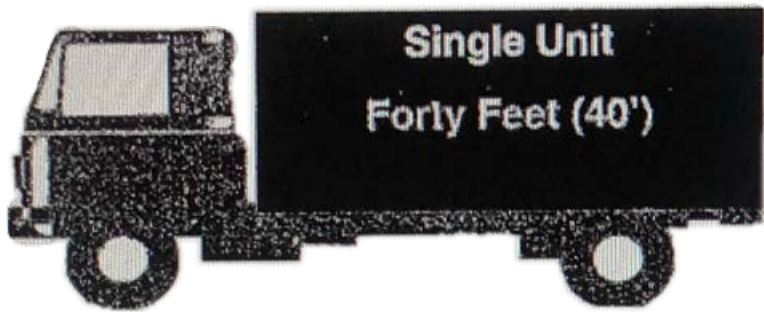
ANY PERMIT MAY BE ORDERED ONLINE THROUGH NM-OPS (NM Operating Permit System-routable network).

<https://permits.dot.state.nm.us>

OS/OW loading chart can be found on the NMDOT website.

<https://dot.state.nm.us>

SIZE



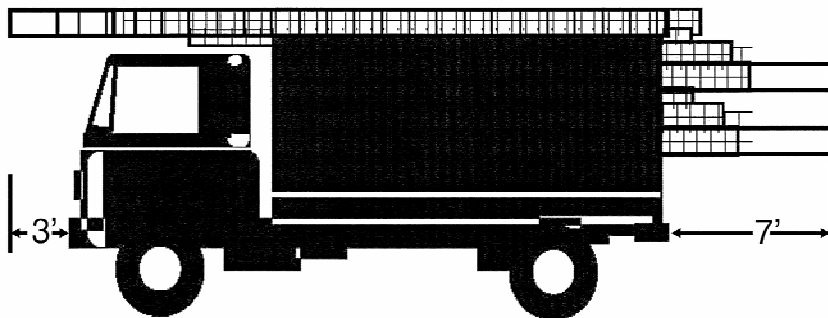
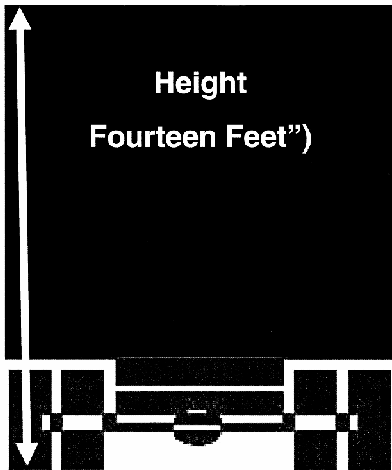
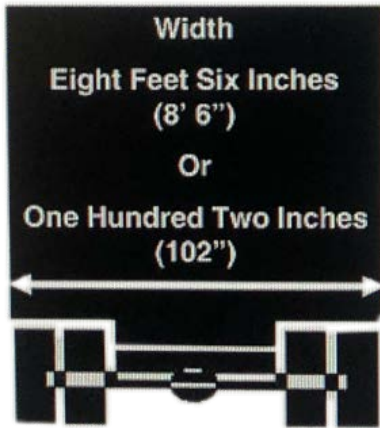
EXCLUDING FRONT & REAR BUMPER



EXCLUDING FRONT & REAR BUMPER



EXCLUDING FRONT & REAR BUMPER



FRONT & REAR OVERHANG

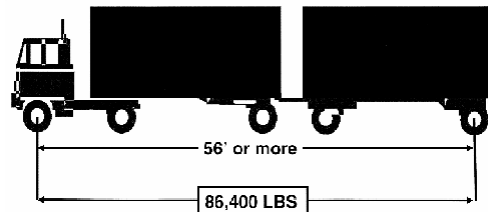
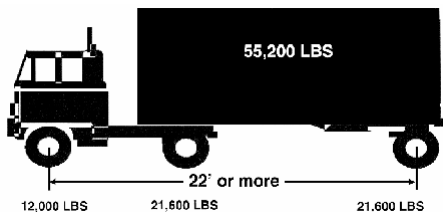
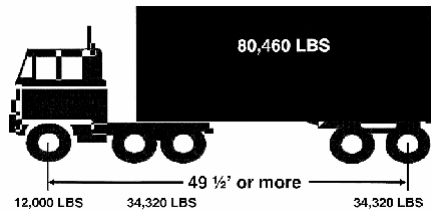
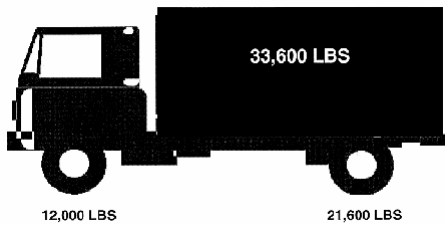
WEIGHT

New Mexico weight limitations are set by law. These laws state the maximum legal gross weight for a vehicle or vehicle combination shall be determined using three separate factors:

- 1) Tire Size
- 2) Number of Axles
- 3) Spacing between Axles.

The maximum allowable weight per tire is 600 pounds per inch of tire width. The maximum allowable weight for a single axle is 21,600 pounds. The maximum allowable for a four foot (4') tandem axle is 34,320 pounds. The maximum legal weight for the vehicle or vehicle combination shall not exceed 86,400 pounds on Federal Designated routes. The following illustrations and table are helpful in determining the maximum legal weight for your vehicle.

TYPICAL MAXIMUM WEIGHTS FOR COMMONLY OPERATED VEHICLES:



NOTE: 12,000 lbs. is the typical maximum weight with 10” tires. As the tire width changes, so will the maximum weight.

**Legal Gross Weight of Vehicles and Loads
NMSA 1978– 66-7-410**

Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed upon the highway through any one axle as set forth in [Section 66-7-409](#) NMSA 1978, the total gross weight with load imposed upon the highway by any one group of two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed the gross weight given for the respective distance between the first and last axle of the group of axles measured longitudinally to the nearest foot as set forth in the following table:

Distance in feet Allowed load in pounds between first and last on groups of axles of groups:

4’- 34,320 lbs.

5’- 35,100 lbs.

6’- 35,880 lbs.

7’- 36,660 lbs.

8’- 37,440 lbs.

9’- 38,220 lbs.

10’- 39,000 lbs.

11’- 39,780 lbs.

12’- 40,560 lbs.

13’- 41,340 lbs.

14’- 42,120 lbs.

15’- 42,900 lbs.

16’- 43,680 lbs.

17’- 44,460 lbs.

18’- 45,240 lbs.

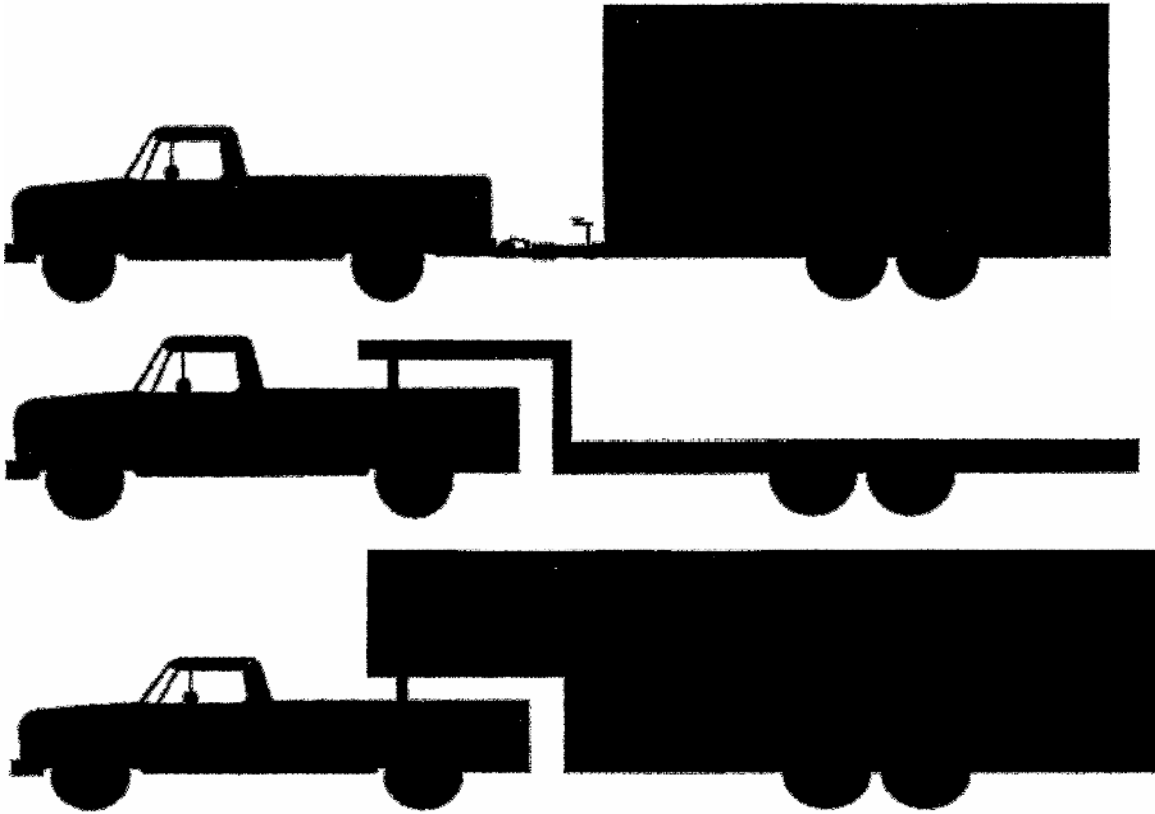
**Legal Gross Weight of Vehicles and Loads
NMSA 1978- 66-7-410**

The total gross weight with load imposed on the highway by any vehicle or combination of vehicles where the distance between the first and last axles is more than eighteen (18) feet shall not exceed that given for the respective distances in the following table:

Distance in feet on groups of axle and last axles of group	Allowed load in pounds between first and last axles of group
19'	53,100 lbs.
20'	54,000 lbs.
21'	54,900 lbs.
22'	55,800 lbs.
23'	56,700 lbs.
24'	57,600 lbs.
25'	58,500 lbs.
26'	59,400 lbs.
27'	60,300 lbs.
28'	61,200 lbs.
29'	62,100 lbs.
30'	63,000 lbs.
31'	63,900 lbs.
32'	64,800 lbs.
33'	65,700 lbs.
34'	66,600 lbs.
35'	67,500 lbs.
36'	68,400 lbs.
37'	69,300 lbs.

38'	70,200 lbs.
39'	71,100 lbs.
40'	72,000 lbs.
41'	72,900 lbs.
42'	73,800 lbs.
43'	74,700 lbs.
44'	75,600 lbs.
45'	76,500 lbs.
46'	77,400 lbs.
47'	78,300 lbs.
48'	79,200 lbs.
49'	80,100 lbs.
50'	81,000 lbs.
51'	81,900 lbs.
52'	82,800 lbs.
53'	83,700 lbs.
54'	84,600 lbs.
55'	85,500 lbs.
56' or over	86,400 lbs.

The distance between the centers of the axles shall be measured to the nearest even foot. When a fraction is exactly one-half the next larger whole number shall be used.



Brought to you by the NM Department of Public Safety
And
The NM Department of Transportation

