



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Michael R. Sandoval, *Cabinet Secretary*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 22, 2021

I-40 Traffic Alert

Construction near Laguna will be suspended during Thanksgiving holiday

MILAN – The New Mexico Department of Transportation is suspending a portion of a 5.5-mile construction project on I-40 near Laguna beginning **Wednesday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 28**.

The NMDOT expected the project would cause delays and as part of the original design, planned to suspend work over the Thanksgiving holiday. Drivers have seen a significant impact to their westbound commute since the mill and inlay project began Nov. 11, 2021. Westbound I-40 was reduced to one lane at the bottom of the hill, west of Exit 117. Commercial vehicles, merging down to one lane, faced with an uphill climb significantly slowed travel which greatly impacted traffic flow.

“We understand how frustrating it is for drivers to be stuck in traffic,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. “We are accelerating the project to get it finished faster, so there is less impact over time to the traveling public. What would have taken 3 months, should take roughly 1 month. However, this was a perfect storm for significant backups due to the exact spot where the work is being done. Hills don’t mix well with heavy cargo. We want families to get to their Thanksgiving destinations safely, which is why we planned all along to open all lanes of traffic during the holiday. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s patience.”

Weather and temperatures permitting, work should be finished in mid-December. Additional project phases will be completed in the spring.

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NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

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