



**Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange  
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

## **Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project Receives Important Federal Approvals**

*Categorical Exclusion and Approval of Interstate Access  
Are Major Milestones Moving Project Ahead*

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**ALBUQUERQUE**—The Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project has received two important approvals from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that move the project forward. On April 12, the project received a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and on April 17, its Interstate Access Change Request (IACR) was approved.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Highway Administration can grant a Categorical Exclusion when projects do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and therefore are excluded from having to undergo an environmental assessment or complete an environmental impact statement.

The Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project qualifies for a CE because it will not have a significant impact on planned growth or land use for the area; does not require the relocation of significant numbers of people; does not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resource; and does not involve significant air, noise or water quality impacts.

The Interstate Access Change Request is required by the FHWA because the project involves modifications to Interstate 25 including construction of a new on-ramp at I-25 and San Mateo, removal of an on-ramp at I-25 and San Antonio; reconstruction of the at-grade intersection at Paseo Del Norte and Jefferson Street as a single-point urban interchange; and construction of additional capacity (lanes) on I-25. All of the Project's modifications are proposed to enhance safety and the flow of traffic on I-25 as well as local area streets.

Governor Susana Martinez said, "I'm pleased that we are moving forward, because this project will bring a number of economic and environmental benefits to central New Mexico. I know everyone is anxious for construction to begin, but I also want to applaud the design team for planning to reconstruct this interchange so that I-25, Paseo Del Norte and Jefferson are as safe and efficient as possible."

“These are important milestones for the Project, and we would like to thank all of the individuals who worked very hard over the past months to complete the required review and analysis required for both the CE and the IACR. An unparalleled amount of collaboration and cooperation has occurred in a very compressed timeframe,” said Tom Church, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry agreed, adding, “When the City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico, Bernalillo County and the Mid Region Council of Governments work together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. This is a great team, and a terrific Project.”

The Project’s design group is continuing to work with the three design-build teams short-listed to bid on construction. The \$93 million Project will include:

- 1) A free-flow ramp to improve eastbound Paseo Del Norte to southbound I-25 traffic movement during morning peak travel time (7-9 a.m.);
- 2) A flyover ramp to improve northbound I-25 to westbound Paseo Del Norte traffic movement during afternoon peak travel time (4:30-6:30 p.m.);
- 3) An overpass at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Paseo Del Norte to improve east-west access and local traffic flow;
- 4) Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to provide a critical link across I-25 and connect existing paths in the area;
- 5) Improved freeway access for traffic originating east of the Paseo Del Norte/I-25 interchange; and
- 6) I-25 mainline improvements between the Alameda Boulevard and Jefferson Street interchanges to improve safety and traffic flow.

A complete copy of the [Categorical Exclusion](#), [the Interstate Access Change Request](#) and the [Memorandum of Approval](#) of the Interstate Access Change Request is available on the Project’s website at [www.paseoi25.com](http://www.paseoi25.com).

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