



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF  
**TRANSPORTATION**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Ricky Serna**, Cabinet Secretary

October 5, 2023

## **NMDOT District Four Ribbon Cutting for N.M. 434**

LAS VEGAS – On September 13, The New Mexico Department of Transportation District Four held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completed N.M. 434 project near Coyote Creek State Park. The project, located in Mora County, is a stunning achievement that produced an improved roadway for travelers between Mora and Angel Fire.

This project, which is the second phase of N.M. 434, improved drainage by installing gabion retaining baskets and rock lined ditches along the roadway shoulders, extended roadway shoulders to allow for larger loads to easily make turns, geo-grid base reinforcement for better subgrade and subbase performance, a new roadway asphalt surface, 2 new bridges, and new metal guardrail barrier.

In attendance was representatives from the NMDOT District Four Project Office, District Executive Staff, representatives from the contractor, Kiewit New Mexico, Federal Highway Administration, Mora County Commission, State Transportation Commission Chair Walter Adams, and State Senator Pete Campos.

Chairman Adams expressed the importance of partnerships between local governments, the Federal Highway Administration, contractors, and state legislatures, “Without these partnerships, and working together, projects like N.M. 434 could not be accomplished” stated Chairman Adams. He went on to say, “the State Transportation Commission appreciates the hard work and dedication that all NMDOT employees display every day. Without your passion and dedication, the department would not be as successful in completing projects like N.M. 434”.

Senator Pete Campos who was also in attendance, commented that the Governor and the State Legislature understands the needs for improvements in rural areas such as N.M. 434. Senator Campos stated, “It takes teamwork and knowledge to bring people together and accomplish amazing projects like N.M. 434. Getting people to their destination safely is important to all of us and our commitment will continue to make rural New Mexico strong and vibrant for one generation after another.”

This project is the second phase of four projects that will improve N.M. 434 between Mora and Angel Fire. The next phase is set to start next spring with similar improvement to drainage and the roadway surface and with the incorporation of structures like green gabions, which are specifically designed to utilize soil bioengineering techniques that use live staking and brush layered and rooted plants, create permanent vegetating armored systems that blend into the natural environment.

For a project that was impacted by recent wildfires, it was completed within the working time frame of the contract, and the improvements will benefit all who travel on N.M. 434 for years to come. The New Mexico Department of Transportation will continue to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for the traveling public, while promoting economic development and preserving the environment of New Mexico.

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**NMDOT**  
*Mobility for everyone*

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