



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Culturally Complex US 64 Construction Project Earns National Award** *Teamwork and Innovation Key to New Mexico DOT Success*

*Austin, TX/November 3, 2009* - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) announced today that the New Mexico Department of Transportation's US 64 construction project, located between Dulce and Lumberton, has received the Executive Director's Commendation Award.

This project is located in the mountains and rugged mesas of northern New Mexico. Dulce is also home to the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Land adjacent to the area is grazed by both domestic livestock and wildlife. The project area passes through State Trust Lands, Game and Fish Lands and private lands.

US 64 is also the only through route in Dulce. The Sovereign Nation status of the Jicarilla Apache Pueblo and their power to unilaterally reject proposed improvements on tribal lands was a key issue. Traditional values based upon centuries of occupation of the land by Jicarilla Apache Nation people was the driving force behind the NMDOT and the contractor ensuring open and thorough communication with the Nation, carefully addressing its needs and concerns before and during this construction project.

The physical nature of US 64 also includes numerous hills, curves and steep side slopes, which, combined with the large number of elk traveling in the area contributes to a high incidence of animal/vehicle collision.

Designed to improve safety and current roadway conditions, as well as reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife, the award-winning project involved roadway reconstruction, rehabilitation sections, earthwork, curb and gutter, erosions control measures, metal barrier installations, major structure (Construction By Configuration), bridge replacement, traffic control, drainage improvements, upgraded intersections, permanent signing, lighting and new fencing. Construction was conducted in both urban and rural settings.

"The success of this project shows residents that the New Mexico Department of Transportation is responsive to the concerns of the traveling public and is willing to invest in alternative design and delivery systems that lessen the impacts to its citizens," said NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton.

Project partners included NMDOT, Contractor, Nielsons Skanska Inc., the Jicarilla Apache Nation Tribal Council, BSN Santa Fe, Reiman Corporation, Viscom, Inc., Max Montano Trucking, San Bar Construction Corporation, Windswept Organix, Iron Tooth Milling, LLC, Surface preparation Technology, Pavement Solutions, LLC, AMEC Earth and Environment, Byerly & Cosyleon, Inc., Apache Construction Company, J-H Supply Company, Inc., Bogan Brothers Painting Company, Inc., Leroy's Excavating and GEOMAT, Inc.

The NPHQ National Achievement Awards recognize overall project quality, the partnership between State departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; the effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; the teams' effectiveness in meeting or exceeding expected deadlines, costs and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities; and adherence to other principles of quality management.

NPHQ is a national coalition of public highway agencies, industry organizations and private firms founded in 1992 as the National Quality Initiative. For more than 15 years, NPHQ continues to be the only National program that brings Federal, State and Municipal highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety and service to the highway users. For more information on the NPHQ and its awards: [www.nphq.org](http://www.nphq.org). To learn more about the US 64 Dulce to Lumberton Construction Project: <http://nmgrip.com/projects.asp?project=15065>.

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