



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF  
**TRANSPORTATION**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 3, 2024

**Chip seal operations in Grant Co. on NM 15, NM 152, NM 35**  
*Motorists should expect roadway closures.*

SILVER CITY- The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) District One along with Highland Enterprise Inc. (Contractor) is currently working to chip seal NM 15, NM 152, and NM 35 in Grant Co. Due to the narrow roadway and switchback curves along these mountainous roads the NMDOT has closed portions of the road for the safety of our crews and the traveling public.

NM 152 will have continued closures with a pilot car operation until June 6<sup>th</sup> for the continuation of sweeping and fog sealing treatment.

Starting Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m. NM 15 will be closed from milepost 10 (Ben Lilly) to milepost 25 (NM 15/NM 35 intersection). NM 15 traffic will need to detour utilizing NM 152 and NM 35 to access the Gila Hot Springs and Gila Cliff Dwellings. NM 15 is not expected to reopen until June 12<sup>th</sup>, crews will then finish working north with a pilot car operation to milepost 30, just south of Gila Hot Springs.

Beginning on or about June 13<sup>th</sup> NM 35 will have a daily closure in place with a pilot car operation in 5-mile increments working from the NM 15/NM 35 intersection continuing southeast to the NM35/NM 152 intersection. All roadways are expected to be completed and reopened by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The process of chip sealing is the placement of an oil emulsion that helps seal and protect the existing roadway, a layer of rock chips are then distributed and rolled into the oil emulsion. The oil/chip combination needs 48 hours to “cure” before the excess rocks can be broomed and removed from the roadway. During this time, it is advised for travelers to reduce speeds to the posted speed limit as to protect from windshield breaks and cracks. Once all chips are removed the contractor then lays down a top sealant oil “fog sealing” that takes about one hour to dry.

In the upcoming weeks the roadways will be appropriately stiped.

The NMDOT is committed to the safety of the traveling public and thanks you for your cooperation during this work. Please prepare for delays and detours, the pilot car operation could have to a 30-minute wait time. For updated information go to [www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com) or call 511.

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**NMDOT**  
*Mobility for everyone*

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