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Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall and along with Representative Ben Ray Luján recognized the groundbreaking of the first American Recovery and Reinvestment Act road project in New Mexico. State officials will break ground on a project in Española that will reconstruct existing lanes of US 84/285 between mile markers 186 and 188.

“The purpose of the recovery act was to put thousands of New Mexicans to work as quickly as possible. I am very pleased that just three months after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law, we are already seeing its benefits in our state,” Bingaman said. “This is the first of many groundbreakings that will take place in New Mexico because of the recovery act. I am pleased to join in celebrating this one.”

“Investing in the reconstruction of this highway is the perfect example of how the recovery package is intended to work,” said Udall. “Within three short months of its passage, we created construction jobs by reconstructing portions of a highway constantly used by locals and tourists traveling through our northern corridor. This is just the first of many key projects the American Recovery and Reinvestment package has paved the way for in New Mexico.”

“It’s encouraging to see that projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are already getting underway and putting people to work in our communities,” said Rep. Luján. “In the coming months we will see many similar projects that will help rebuild our roads and bridges, and get our economy moving.”

The estimated cost of the project is \$7.9 million, and it is expected to be completed in 18 months. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is investing \$252.6 million for infrastructure projects in New Mexico, and more than \$2 billion total in the state. It is estimated about 22,000 jobs will be created or retained in New Mexico because of the economic recovery package.