

## U.S. Route 491 detour route now open to essential traffic



*Left, the New Mexico Department of Transportation opened the temporary detour route on U.S. Route 491 late Tuesday afternoon. The detour has the capacity to provide commercial vehicle access. Top right, road crews are still paving the detour, which has standard 12-foot lanes with 4-foot shoulders. The road will also be striped for safety. Bottom right, road crew members worked through gusting winds whipping dust across the work site. (Photos by Rick Abasta)*

NASCHITTI, N.M.-On July 9, 2013, the New Mexico Department of Transportation opened the U.S. Route 491 temporary detour route to restore essential traffic on the roadway.

The detour route was opened late in the afternoon on the eastern side of the damaged roadway.

NMDOT encourages motorists to exercise extreme caution when traveling the detour route. Reduced speed limits are in place and will be enforced.

The speed limit for travel through the detour route is 25 mph.

Jermiah Herrera, technician supervisor for NMDOT, said motorists must remain vigilant when traveling the detour route.

“Take the reduction in speed into consideration when you are traveling. Remain vigilant and mind the signage,” Herrera said. “Have some consideration for others on the road because not everybody is a local.”

He said NMDOT is currently paving the detour route, which will be standard 12-foot lanes with 4-foot shoulders.

Herrera did not have a timeframe for completion of the main U.S. Route 491 roadway.

“It’s going to be a while before it gets back to normal,” he said.

Information: [www.navajodot.org](http://www.navajodot.org) or [www.dot.state.nm.us](http://www.dot.state.nm.us)