



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Michael R. Sandoval, *Cabinet Secretary*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMDOT employees pickup 17,000 pounds of roadside trash

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Transportation collected 8.5 tons of roadside trash during a statewide “Toss No Mas” litter clean-up event in September.

“The roadside trash issue continues to plague New Mexico and while our department is accountable for the cleanup, I implore New Mexicans to take responsibility for their actions that cause litter,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. “Our employees are working on their day off to clean up the trash and debris left behind by motorists. These employees include our maintenance patrols and *any* DOT employee willing to participate. The trash accumulates faster than we can pick it up on a regular basis,” adds Sandoval. “The primary job of our maintenance crews is to maintain the integrity of our roads. That’s why we are contracting with a private company to work exclusively on litter pickup, but the problem needs to be stopped at the source. People must tie and tarp their loads, tie up their garbage bags and stop using our roadsides as dump sites.”

In total, 98 DOT employees participated on their day off.

- 427 bags of trash were collected
- Total weight equaled 8.5 tons
- Employees accrued 1,044 total labor hours
- \$24,219.89 spent on labor and equipment costs

Items collected include:

- Wood palettes
- Lumber
- Scrap metal

- Canvas material
- Large cardboard boxes
- Semi tires
- Disposable masks
- Household trash
- Cans
- Buckets
- Car parts
- Roof shingles
- A mattress
- Hypodermic needles/medical waste
- Water bottles filled with urine and spit
- A sink
- And a microwave

The privately contracted litter company will begin later this month.

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