

Bill Richardson
Governor
State of New Mexico



Rhonda G. Faught, P.E.
Cabinet Secretary

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Secretary Rhonda Faught Pledges To Work Closely With Pueblos And Tribes

SANTA FE - Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught said on Monday that following a hearing with tribal leaders, the New Mexico Department of Transportation is committed to working closer with all pueblos and tribes to address their transportation needs.

“Our department recognizes, respects and supports the unique sovereign status of the tribes and pueblos in New Mexico,” Faught said. “Working together, we can make a difference.”

During a hearing session with tribal leaders from across the state last week, Faught promised to work more closely with them than in the past.

“One of the things we need to do better is to understand you better,” Faught told the tribal leaders. “We need to understand your culture and protocol more better than in the past.

“I hope this is the first step in establishing partnerships that will be beneficial to each other,” Faught said. “We as a department and as the state under Governor Bill Richardson’s leadership, we respect your sovereignty.”

Faught said the department is seriously exploring the possibility of establishing a local/tribal assistance bureau to help local municipalities and sovereign tribal entities regarding policies and procedures on accessing resources for transportation projects.

Nearly 50 tribal leaders attended the hearing session during which issues such as public safety, jurisdictional matters and tribal needs were discussed. The tribal leaders also emphasized the need to have increased communication and outreach between NMDOT and the tribal governments.

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