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Governor Richardson Announces New Mexico MainStreet Awards

SANTA FE, NM – Governor Richardson announced today that the Economic Development Department and the Department of Finance and Administration have awarded a total of \$1.5 Million to the recipients of this year's Capital Outlay Funding for New Mexico MainStreet Communities.

"I am pleased by the continued success of the New Mexico MainStreet program, an integral part of my rural economic development strategy," said Governor Richardson. "Over the past four years, MainStreet projects have generated \$52 million in private-sector reinvestment in our rural communities. With this year's award-winners, we're once again expanding MainStreet's vision and revitalization efforts in communities across New Mexico."

"New Mexico MainStreet enhances our state's downtowns through city design, promotion and publicity, economic restructuring guidance, and organization," said Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragón. "MainStreet has a profound and sustained impact in the places where our citizens live, work, and do businesses daily."

"The Department of Finance and Administration is once again successfully collaborating with other state agencies to leverage funds and improve quality of life in local communities across the state by investing in the future of our downtowns and historic districts, thereby improving infrastructure and restoring economic vitality," said Robert Apodaca, Local Government Division Director.

Specifically, 11 projects in 11 New Mexico communities are the 2007 award recipients:

Artesia has been awarded \$110,000 for phase two of a streetscape project on Second Street and Texas Avenue which is a 13 block renovation that includes parking, pedestrian safety and increased visibility.

Carlsbad has been awarded \$46,000 to create a comprehensive downtown master plan for its downtown. This plan will address critical economic development opportunities and help form an implementation strategy for priority projects.

Clayton has been awarded \$300,000 for design and construction of a streetscape plan for a one-block area of Walnut Street. This project will include pedestrian safety, parking, landscaping, and lighting.

Farmington has been awarded \$70,000 to develop a master plan for the Farmington Metropolitan Redevelopment area.

Grants has been awarded \$70,000 for the development and construction of a pavilion to be located in the Fire and Ice Park, along Route 66 on Santa Fe Avenue, the main street of Grants.

Las Cruces has been awarded \$298,270 to design and construct “La Placita.” This pavilion style plaza will physically connect two neighboring historical districts – the Mesquite Historic District and the Alameda Depot Historic District.

Las Vegas has been awarded \$125,000 for the construction of the Valencia Parking Lot north of Bridge Street to increase economic vitality to Historic Old Town / Plaza Park.

Los Alamos has been awarded \$80,730 for assistance in the first phase of the Los Alamos Plaza redevelopment project. This includes planning, design and construction of streetscape and pedestrian trail amenities.

Portales has been awarded \$50,000 to develop a comprehensive master plan for its downtown.

Raton has been awarded \$300,000 to restore and repair the Historic Shuler Theater located at the heart of downtown Raton.

Tucumcari has been awarded \$50,000 to develop a comprehensive master plan for its downtown.

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