

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor  
State of New Mexico



**Rhonda G. Fought, P.E.**  
Cabinet Secretary

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**PRESS RELEASE --- For Immediate Release**

## **US Highway 666 Is Now Officially US Highway 491**

Santa Fe --- The New Mexico Highway and Transportation Department announced Monday that its application to change the name of U.S. Highway 666 has been approved.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) on Saturday changed the numbering of U.S. 666 to U.S. 491. The 190-mile highway starts near Gallup, N.M., runs through Southwestern Colorado and ends in Monticello, Utah.

"I'm pleased that after years of controversy, this issue which has plagued the Navajo Nation and Northwestern New Mexico had finally been resolved," said New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson.

"Now we've got to find a way to improve the highway," said Governor Richardson. "After years of neglect in Santa Fe Highway 491 needs serious renovation, and i also strongly support widening the highway from two lanes to four."

The Colorado Department of Transportation and the Utah Department of Transportation joined New Mexico in submitting applications for the name change.

New Mexico Highway and Transportation Secretary Rhonda Fought said Monday that she was pleased with the decision. "This is a real win-win-win situation for all three states involved. We are very pleased with the outcome."

Fought said the department would coordinate with Colorado and Utah officials in erecting new signs as soon as possible. It will cost less than \$10,000 to replace all the highway signs in New Mexico.

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