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For Immediate Release

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NMDoT Proposes New Rules On Telecom, Broadband, and Wireless Companies Hindering New and Existing Broadband

The New Mexico Department of Transportation, an agency that manages State rights-of-way has introduced new rules for obtaining permits in state owned rights-of-way. The new rules specifically introduce new fees that all Telecom, Broadband, and Wireless Companies must start paying to deploy infrastructure in State rights-of-way. Telecom, Broadband, and Wireless companies utilize rights-of-way as allowed by federal and state laws to deploy broadband infrastructure for public use.

In one example, the agency proposes to charge a one time flat fee of \$5000 for every mile of fiber run in the rights-of-way and annual fees that will range from \$2,000. to \$5,000. per mile of fiber charged on an annual basis. It is unclear whether the fees are retroactive. For more information regarding the fees, please see NMDoT's Broadband Telecom Manual https://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/utilities/Telecomm_Manual.pdf

"These new rules will mark the death of the Internet and Cell Phones in New Mexico" as stated by Mr. Albert Catanach, NMSurf's President. "New Mexico ranks 49th in broadband availability and speeds and if these new rules are promulgated, this will guarantee that New Mexico will be last in broadband for many years to come. This will also further hurt the pockets of many New Mexicans whose Internet and Cell Phone bills could possibly double or even triple in cost." stated Mr. Catanach.

NMDoT is accepting comments per their website at <https://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/public-notice.html>

For more information, please contact the above.