

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND IDENTIFY ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR LOCAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has more than forty-four thousand lane miles of municipal and county roads, the conditions of which are deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, House Memorial 35, which passed the legislature in 2007, calls for a review of the state's current and future transportation needs and identification of funding strategies for a sustainable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the report that was generated as a result of that memorial focuses primarily on funding for state roads and interstate highways due to the significant flow of traffic on

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1 those roads; and

2 WHEREAS, the report acknowledges that total transportation
3 revenue in New Mexico has not kept up with inflation and the
4 growing demand on the transportation system; and

5 WHEREAS, it is critical for the health, welfare and safety
6 of people who travel on municipal and county roads that the
7 roads be adequately maintained and improved on a regular
8 schedule; and

9 WHEREAS, counties and municipalities have different but
10 equally compelling needs to maintain and improve local roads;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, counties and municipalities have the
13 responsibility to provide safe roads for the transport of
14 children in school buses on those local roads; and

15 WHEREAS, the integrity and periodic improvement of local
16 roads are important to support economic development statewide;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, municipal and county roads are primarily funded
19 from the local governments road fund that has a complex formula
20 for distribution of those funds; and

21 WHEREAS, the distribution of funds has not kept pace with
22 the transportation needs in counties and municipalities; and

23 WHEREAS, the increasing cost of maintaining and improving
24 local roads due to the increased cost of materials and labor
25 puts a burden on the counties and municipalities with the

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1 responsibility for that maintenance and improvement;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
4 requested to convene a task force to study and identify
5 adequate, equitable and sustainable funding mechanisms for
6 local road construction, maintenance and improvement; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
8 representation from the New Mexico association of counties, the
9 New Mexico municipal league and regional and metropolitan
10 planning organizations; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify and
12 recommend mechanisms to increase the amount of funding in the
13 local governments road fund as well as the distribution from
14 the local governments road fund to counties and municipalities;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
17 recommendations of the task force be reported to the
18 appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2009;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the New Mexico
22 association of counties, the New Mexico municipal league and
23 regional and metropolitan planning organizations.