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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

<b>SPONSOR</b> <u>Ferrary/Lujan/Silva/Block</u>	<b>LAST UPDATED</b> _____
	<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b> <u>3/11/25</u>
<b>SHORT TITLE</b> <u>Trinity Site Rest Stop</u>	<b>BILL</b> <u>House Joint</u>
	<b>NUMBER</b> <u>Memorial 8</u>
	<b>ANALYST</b> <u>Simon</u>

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		See Fiscal Implications				

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.  
 \*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Memorial 50

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
 Tourism Department (NMTD)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From  
 Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Joint Memorial 8

House Joint Memorial 8 requests the Department of Transportation (NMDOT) construct a rest stop on US-380 at the entrance to the Trinity Site near Bingham in honor of downwinders impacted by the detonation of atomic weapons.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not carry appropriations and do not require that agencies undertake the action that is requested by the memorial. However, the construction and maintenance of a new rest stop would likely require a significant investment of either general fund or state road fund dollars. While the term “rest stop” may be open to interpretation, typically rest stops have several amenities, including parking, restrooms, and drinking water, and in some cases picnic table, shade structures, or facilities for pets. Costs for the proposed site could be particularly expensive, given the costs of construction in remote areas. Further, NMDOT would likely need to purchase land to complete the project, which could significantly increase the cost and time needed to

complete the planning phase of the project. The memorial requests NMDOT hold a dedication ceremony on July 16, 2025, which is likely too soon for NMDOT to make any significant progress on the requested project.

Recently, the department began a \$20 million project to demolish and replace the Rattlesnake Rest Area on Interstate 40 in Torrance County. While a cost estimate from the department is not available, LFC would expect the construction of a new rest area to be at least as costly.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Trinity Site, on the White Sands missile range in southern New Mexico, was the site of the first atomic weapon detonation on July 16, 1945. HJM8 notes currently there is no historic marker, routinely accessible to the public, commemorating the historic significance of the site. Additionally, the memorial requests the site be dedicated to “downwinders” residents of nearby counties. According to the National Park Service, residents of Lincoln, Socorro, Otero, and Sierra counties have reported cancer diagnoses in people with no prior family history and other diseases, such as heart disease. Residents of the area have lobbied for inclusion in the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which provides compensation for medical treatment related to radiation exposure. That act currently only covers exposure from uranium mining or exposure from testing in Nevada.

The Tourism Department provides the following analysis, which may relate to the feasibility of the proposed site:

The Trinity Site is within the White Sands Missile Range and is only open to the public twice a year. A rest stop and memorial may attract tourists who expect year-round access. Additionally, Highway 380 is a remote area with limited services. Increased tourism could create demands for additional infrastructure, such as restrooms, security, and emergency response services.

JWS/hg/sgs