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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Pinto DATE TYPED: 02/07/02 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Widen US Highway 666 SB SJM 71

ANALYST: Valdes

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
			\$80,000.0	Non-recurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Highway and Transportation Department
LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 71 requests the State Highway Commission to designate widening of United States Highway 666 (US666) to four lanes a top project priority.

Significant Issues

US666 is one of the most dangerous highways in the state. When comparing US666 to nine other major highways in the state including US84/285 Santa Fe to Pojoaque and US70 Ruidoso to Riverside, over a five-year period from 1996 through 2000, US666 had the highest average number of traffic accidents annually which amounted to 135. US666 also had the highest average number of people killed (9) and injured (130) per year, when compared to the other nine highways, over a five-year period.

US666 has been widened to four lanes from Gallup to Sheep Springs. Widening the remaining 60 miles between Sheep Springs and the Colorado border would cost approximately \$80 million.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The department is experiencing budget constraints with state road fund revenue projections flat and large declines expected in federal revenues, based on the proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2003 released by President Bush. Any funding proposed for new projects would require a diversion of an equivalent amount of funding from existing highway projects or new revenue sources would have to be identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to SHTD, the Navajo Nation can petition Congress for a congressional apportionment or propose a series of widening projects through the regional planning process as possible alternative funding sources.

MV/sb