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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/15/2007

SPONSOR Youngberg LAST UPDATED _____ HM 105

SHORT TITLE Additional Albuquerque Rio Grande Crossings SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
\$750 to \$1,000		Nonrecurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
NM Department of Transportation

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This Memorial requests the Department of Transportation conduct a needs analysis and feasibility study to determine potential for additional motor vehicle river crossings over the Rio Grande in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In order to complete a river crossing feasibility study for the entire Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area, engineering factors, environmental considerations, traffic impacts, neighborhood concerns, and economic and aesthetic issues would need to be addressed in enough detail to allow for project identification and prioritization of funding.

A study of this magnitude is estimated to cost between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. Even if this funding were available immediately, it would be difficult to complete the study by November, 2007.

No funding source is identified in the Memorial. The only source available would be the State Road Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Mid Region Council of Governments (“MRCOG”) is in the process of updating the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (“AMPA”) Long Range Transportation Plan (the “Plan”). The Plan forecasts transportation needs of the AMPA for the next 20 years. Some analysis on river crossing needs and feasibility has already been completed in the Plan update.

In addition, the MRCOG Board directed MRCOG staff to investigate the possibility of conducting a study to determine the best potential for traffic management on the existing river crossings. This would involve a detailed corridor study of the river crossings with the most potential for reducing traffic congestion by using traffic management techniques. Examples of these techniques are reversible lanes or dedicated truck lanes among other options. The cost estimate for this study is also \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. To date, no funding has been identified to conduct this study. However if the study is funded, some analysis of new river crossings will be included.

MRCOG is currently conducting a corridor study of US 550, which is the next river crossing north of the Alameda Street bridge in Albuquerque. Feasibility of additional crossings to address congestion on US 550 should be included in this study that is already underway.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMDOT states that MRCOG is the federally designated agency responsible for transportation planning in the AMPA. Therefore, the Department of Transportation is not the appropriate entity to perform the requested study because of the federally required local planning process.

GM/mt