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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/26/09

SPONSOR HTPWC LAST UPDATED _____ HJM CS/26/aHTPWC

SHORT TITLE Rail Runner from Santa Fe to Las Cruces SB _____

ANALYST Moser

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$100.0		\$100.0	Nonrecurring	State road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HTPWC Amendment

The House Transportation and Public Works Committee amendment to House Transportation and Public Works Committee Substitute for House Joint Memorial 26 stipulates that the feasibility study will be done in partnership with appropriate local government entities and interested private persons. The amendment also stipulates that the study will not commence until sufficient funds have been allocated from local public and private sources to pay for the study, such that the Department of Transportation will provide technical and administrative support for the study, but that the Department's financial contribution, if any, will be negligible.

The amendment also stipulates that any study funds not expended or encumbered by December 31, 2012 be returned to the source or sources of the study funds as appropriate. The amendment strikes that the study be completed "by November 2010" and inserts in lieu thereof "no later than 2012".

Synopsis of Substitution

The House Transportation and Public Works Committee Substitute for House Joint Memorial 26 requests NMDOT complete a feasibility study to determine possible routes, optimum frequency of trips and potential costs of developing a commuter rail service from Las Cruces to El Paso, including coordination on the study with the Texas Department of Transportation. The House Transportation and Public Works Committee Substitute for House Joint Memorial 26 also stipulates that the study should create plans that can be set into action to maximize the use of possible funds that New Mexico, Texas and the federal government may make available in the future for public transit systems.

The House Transportation and Public Works Committee Substitute for House Joint Memorial 26 stipulates that those plans should also consider the need to ease the congestion on interstate highways running between Las Cruces and El Paso to reduce the need for expansion of highways and the costs of maintaining those highways. It also further stipulates that the feasibility study, to the extent study resources are available, consider the expansion of the commuter rail system north of Las Cruces to the New Mexico spaceport and other New Mexico areas of interest, including eventual connection with the Rail Runner Express.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMDOT estimates the cost of this study at \$100,000. NMDOT indicates that any funding required to conduct the study are not included in NMDOT's FY 2010 work program or FY 2010 budget request.

As amended, this study will not commence until sufficient funds have been allocated from local public and private sources to pay for the study and the NMDOT's financial contribution, if any, will be negligible.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDOT indicates that the completion of the feasibility study referenced in HJM 26 would require NMDOT to engage the services of a consulting firm experienced in preparing such feasibility studies. NMDOT estimates the cost of this study at \$100,000.

GM/svb