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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR McCamley ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HM 75
SHORT TITLE Spaceport Road as State Road SB _____
ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	>\$25.0	NFI	>\$25.0	Nonrecurring	DOT Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 75 requests that NMDOT work with Dona Ana and Sierra Counties to study the feasibility of classifying the road to Spaceport America as a state road and completing the road project. The memorial requires DOT to report the results of the study to the Legislative Finance Committee by November 1, 2015.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMDOT will bear any costs associated with completing the study. If it becomes necessary for NMDOT to contract with an engineering consultant to perform the study, the cost could range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, depending on the complexity of the study and the level of coordination required between NMDOT and the county agencies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDOT has been coordinating with representatives from Dona Ana County regarding the possibility of a road exchange agreement related to the county road connecting I-25 to Spaceport America. The discussions have included establishing conditions under which NMDOT would consider accepting the road into the state system. These conditions include, but are not limited

to: (1) the roadway being reconstructed by the two counties to meet the design standards of a state road; (2) the counties being responsible for the design, construction costs, and any necessary right of way (ROW) purchases associated with the roadway being reconstructed to state standards; and (3) that Dona Ana County enter into a road exchange agreement with NMDOT, which includes Dona Ana County assuming responsibility for certain designated state roads in exchange for DOT adding the Spaceport America road into the state system.

Based on the coordination between NMDOT District 1 and Dona Ana County, the County committed to fund and lead the design effort of the roadway, including the section of road in Sierra County. NMDOT has not been approached by Sierra County regarding consideration of a similar road exchange for any or all portions of the road within Sierra County.

If Dona Ana County and NMDOT reach an agreement regarding a road exchange without a similar agreement being reached with Sierra County, it would result in one road being maintained to two separate standards (NMDOT's and Sierra County's). This could create conflicts in rural areas with regard to driver expectations and experiences on the road.

Significant issues on the northern portion of Spaceport Road to Engle will be of concern as there is limited ROW to install proper slopes and shoulders and a portion of the existing roadway is within railroad ROW.

CJ/je