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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto ORIGINAL DATE 3/13/15 HB _____
LAST UPDATED _____
SHORT TITLE Study McKinley County Bridges SJM 29
ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Unknown	Unknown	NFI	Unknown	Nonrecurring	DOT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 168 and SB 696

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 29 requests the formation of a task force comprised of the NMDOT Cabinet Secretary, District Engineer and representatives from the McKinley County Board of Commissioners and affected tribal governments to study load ratings of bridges owned by McKinley county and the costs for improvements to bridges that are not load rated for standard-sized school buses and emergency vehicles. Findings and recommendations for improvements are to be reported to the appropriate interim committee that studies transportation infrastructure issues and the Legislative Finance Committee by November 1, 2015.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The study requested in SJM 29 could cost up to \$1.5 million. In order to determine the appropriate improvement for a given bridge, NMDOT may be required to obtain a field survey, conduct geotechnical and drainage studies and various project development efforts to determine and mitigate any right of way, utility and environmental impacts.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDOT is in the process of determining load capacities for bridges owned by McKinley County. NMDOT’s initial determination is that a significant number of bridges will not have the capacity to carry standard size school buses or some emergency vehicles. The County is equipped to determine the planning that should be employed to establish the prioritized order for each bridge’s repair or replacement. NMDOT is not equipped to make those types of transportation planning decisions for the County residents’ needs. HJM 19 places this responsibility on NMDOT.

NMDOT inspects 48 bridges owned and maintained by McKinley County. Each time a bridge is inspected, a bridge inspection report is provided to McKinley County. These reports contain recommendations for repairs and maintenance which local entities are to use for planning their bridge and infrastructure needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMDOT Administrative Directive No. 202 directs that NMDOT may assist local governments provided NMDOT resources are being used to address an emergency and that doing so does not affect NMDOT’s ability to carry out its statutory obligations.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 168 and SB 696 which provide \$200 thousand from severance tax bonds to NMDOT to study bridges in McKinley County.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMDOT typically repairs or replaces 20 to 25 state-owned bridges per year. A typical bridge study involves participation by several functional groups including a surveyor, drainage engineer, environmental engineer, geotechnical engineer, project development engineer, and a bridge engineer. The assessment of each bridge along with the development of a strategy to repair or replace each bridge will require significant man-power and funding.

As a member of the task force, NMDOT will be expected to dedicate staff time and resources, which will take these resources from their normal duties in support of the NMDOT project development and letting program.

ALTERNATIVES

NMDOT notes that McKinley County could evaluate its needs based on the bridge inspection reports that NMDOT provides work through NMDOT’s Local Government Unit at the District 6 office to apply for design funding and select a consultant/design firm to plan/design its highest priority bridge(s).