

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**HOUSE MEMORIAL 16**

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**J. "Andy" Kissner**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF THE STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE LAS CRUCES BYPASS.**

**WHEREAS, Las Cruces has experienced a tremendous amount  
of growth over the past years, with the city's population  
growing during the 1980s at a rate of thirty-seven and eight-  
tenths percent, from forty-five thousand eighty-six to sixty-  
two thousand one hundred twenty-six, and Dona Ana county has  
grown at an even faster rate of forty and six-tenths percent,  
from ninety-six thousand three hundred forty to one hundred  
thirty-five thousand five hundred ten; and**

**WHEREAS, since 1990, the population has continued to  
increase at a substantial rate of more than twenty percent;  
and**

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, this explosive growth has had a major impact on  
2 local facilities, including the overall transportation system,  
3 and alternate reliever routes and capacity enhancements for  
4 various thoroughfares have been analyzed, including  
5 improvements to United States highway 70; and

6           WHEREAS, United States highway 70 serves as the principal  
7 arterial east from Las Cruces to White Sands missile range,  
8 Alamogordo and Ruidoso and west to interstate 10 for access to  
9 Deming, Lordsburg and Tucson; and

10          WHEREAS, population growth experienced within the area  
11 has had a direct correlation with the level of traffic, with  
12 currently twenty-nine thousand seven hundred thirty-five  
13 vehicles per day traveling along the western segment of the  
14 highway, an increase of ten thousand vehicles per day within  
15 the interstate 25-United States highway 70 interchange area;  
16 and

17          WHEREAS, the Las Cruces metropolitan planning  
18 organization received assistance from the state legislature to  
19 contract for consultant services to determine alternate  
20 reliever routes and capacity enhancements for United States  
21 highway 70; and

22          WHEREAS, the study determined that the primary emphasis  
23 for transportation improvements should be to expand the  
24 capacity of the existing United States highway 70 funding for  
25 the United States highway 70 frontage roads and related

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 improvements which have been allocated at a level of ninety-  
2 two million dollars (\$92,000,000) in state and federal money;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the continuing growth of the area prevents the  
5 improvements to United States highway 70 from being a  
6 permanent fix; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state land office has in excess  
8 of ten thousand acres of land south of United States highway  
9 70 and east of interstate 25 in Las Cruces that are primed for  
10 future urban development and, with private land in the area,  
11 this undeveloped land provides significant opportunity for  
12 early planning to meet the continuing growth of southern New  
13 Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the city of Las Cruces has worked with the  
15 United States bureau of land management and the state land  
16 office in an effort to begin the process of setting aside  
17 corridors for development of future arterials and a bypass  
18 that would connect United States highway 70 from a point near  
19 Organ to interstate 10 south of the interstates 25 and 10  
20 interchange, and approximately two miles of the estimated  
21 sixteen and one-half miles of this route have been set aside;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the city continues to work with the bureau of  
24 land management and the state land office in an effort to firm  
25 up the final route alignment and establish a dedicated right

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 of way for the southern bypass from United States highway 70  
2 to interstate 10; and

3 WHEREAS, through continued planning and early right-of-way  
4 acquisition, Las Cruces, Dona Ana county and the state will be  
5 able to provide a logical continuation of the overall  
6 transportation network in southern New Mexico at the lowest  
7 possible cost;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state highway  
10 and transportation department, the state land office, the United  
11 States bureau of land management, the city of Las Cruces and Dona  
12 Ana county be requested to continue their cooperation and  
13 development of a Las Cruces bypass; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the secretary of highway and transportation, the  
16 commissioner of public lands, the state director of the bureau of  
17 land management, the mayor of Las Cruces and the Dona Ana board  
18 of county commissioners.

1 FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
3  
4  
5

6 March 4, 1999  
7

8 Mr. Speaker:  
9

10 Your TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been  
11 referred  
12

13 HOUSE MEMORIAL 16  
14

15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,  
18

19  
20  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Daniel P. Silva, Chairman  
23  
24  
25

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HJM 84

Page 6

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 11 For 0 Against

Yes: 11

Excused: Heaton, Russell

Absent: None

J: \99Bill\SWP\HMD16

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete