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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/25/2009

SPONSOR Alcon LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 68

SHORT TITLE Electronic Statewide Traffic Records System SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 68 requests that all participants in the statewide traffic records system jointly develop a plan to implement the statewide traffic records system which will include the determination of where the system will be located, the number of employees it will require and the funding needed to support the statewide traffic records system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This Memorial will have no fiscal impact. The majority of funding has come from federal sources. The Statewide Traffic Record System (STRS) has been certified for \$1.8 million by New Mexico's Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for the STRS Architecture Design and Implementation. Proofs of Concepts are underway for the data integration between traffic records entities. The TraCS (Traffic Criminal Software – field collection software) Phase I was certified for \$4.5 million by DoIT for the acquisition of equipment, installation, and training for law enforcement officers. There are currently over 440 officers from 12 law enforcement agencies utilizing TraCS.

NMDOT indicates that this memorial will help determine future fiscal needs

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDOT reports that New Mexico's Statewide Traffic Record System (STRS) is a multi-phase, multi-year program created for the electronic collection and transmission of data between traffic record entities. The STRS is designed to identify priorities for the development and implementation of traffic safety programs. The purpose of the STRS is to reduce traffic-related crashes, thereby reducing injuries and fatalities on New Mexico roads.

The STRS will enhance the ability of traffic records agencies, partners, and stakeholders to provide timely, accurate, complete, uniform and accessible traffic safety data. STRS will automate data collected in the field by law enforcement agencies statewide, and allow dissemination of traffic citations and crash reports to entities needing access to this data.

In addition, this automated effort provides extensive benefits to several executive agencies, including Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation & Revenue Department, Department of Public Safety, as well as the Judiciary. The current system requires several points of redundant and manual data entry; therefore it is not as efficient or accurate as it could be.

NMDOT indicates that it has been the lead agency since inception of the project and cooperation by other traffic safety entities is voluntary. A more formal commitment is needed to further the goals of the STRS. A fully implemented and funded STRS will provide significant benefits to New Mexico.

Currently, state, local, and tribal agencies collect traffic-related data manually and enter data into various agency databases. The agencies create data that is exchanged manually via U.S. mail or by courier. There is limited electronic exchange of traffic-related information among agencies. The result is that processes of problem identification and analysis may not be timely, complete, or accurate, thus limiting data driven decisions by management in developing and implementing countermeasures. This further jeopardizes the lives of the motoring public.

The aim of STRS is to identify the multi-tiered data processes among traffic records entities, and to assist decision makers with making significant improvements in a minimum amount of time, with the greatest level of efficiency.

NMDOT reports that since 2002, the Statewide Traffic Records Executive Oversight Committee (STREOC) has provided oversight and policy direction to the Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC), and facilitated the establishment of a long-range strategic plan for traffic record system improvements. The STREOC Members and the STRCC Members represent many New Mexico agencies that create, share, and report on traffic records data. The Statewide Traffic Records Strategic Plan and the Statewide Traffic Records System Model, and the TraCS Software Evaluation Pilot Project were developed and adopted by the STREOC and the STRCC in December 2002.

NMDOT additionally indicates that in 2003, at the direction of Governor Bill Richardson, a Statewide Multi-Agency DWI Strategic Planning Committee was formed-a collaborative effort of diverse stakeholders involved in addressing the DWI issue in New Mexico. The resulting DWI Strategic Plan describes a comprehensive DWI Data System as the #1 strategic initiative.

Major components of such a system include:

- Electronic data entry in the field of DWI-related paperwork by law enforcement agencies (e-citation).
- Electronic transfer of DWI-related paperwork among law enforcement agencies, courts (District, Metropolitan, Magistrate and Municipal), District Attorneys and the Motor Vehicle Division. Improved data transfer between law enforcement agencies and the Scientific Laboratory Division of the Department of Health (DOH).
- Sentence compliance tracking with electronic data transfer between the courts and the compliance tracking system, including probation and corrections and eventually evaluation and central data repository.

In addition this project is aligned with the following state plans:

- Department of Transportation Highway Safety Performance Plan
- Department of Transportation Comprehensive Transportation Safety Plan
- NM Statewide Traffic Records Strategic Plan

The STRS sets the foundation for assuring that data is available to support both federally funded traffic safety programs and those programs that are funded from state and local sources.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

By establishing the STRS, multiple agencies can evaluate the possibilities of linking the state traffic data systems with other data systems within the state, such as systems that contain crash, justice, driver, roadway, and medical data. The STRS will improve the compatibility and interoperability of state data systems with national data systems. The STRS will enhance the ability to observe and analyze state, local, and tribal trends in traffic related occurrences in accordance with national and state initiatives by implementing the following:

- Provide law enforcement officers with a uniform tool to automate traffic citations, **DWI citations and associated forms, Incident/Offense reports and Crash reports.**
- Support other law enforcement activities by reducing the time required to issue citations.
- Identify and purchase equipment, such as computers, laptops, scanners, mobile devices, and servers necessary to participate in the STRS Program.
- Develop a statewide traffic records database for all electronically submitted traffic records data.
- Minimize the transfer of data manually.
- Create a data sharing and exchange program between the agencies to help deter and reduce repeat offenders, reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes, and create a comprehensive, accessible citation system.
- Provide comprehensive repositories for analytical reporting on traffic records data.

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- Develop and maintain the electronic exchange of judgment and sentencing information between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Motor Vehicle Division.
- Develop an electronic interface between the local law enforcement agency TraCS database and Records Management Systems.
- Address records retention policies and procedures with regards to release of public information.

GM/mt