

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TO
INTEGRATE VISUAL ENHANCEMENT AND DESIGN ELEMENTS INTO THE NEW
CONSTRUCTION OR UPGRADE OF STATE HIGHWAYS AND OTHER MAJOR
STATE ROADS.

WHEREAS, the state highway and transportation department
has a significant role in determining the appearance and
visual character of our state's highways and major state
roads; and

WHEREAS, the important design elements, including the
architecture of bridges, landscaping and public art, could
significantly improve the visual quality of our state's
highways and major state roads; and

WHEREAS, the visual appearance of the state's highways
and major state roads contributes to the quality of life and
economic vitality of many of our communities; and

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1 WHEREAS, local governments, in cooperation with the
2 state highway and transportation department, middle Rio
3 Grande council of governments, the business community, design
4 professionals and community representatives, have developed
5 the interstate corridor enhancement plan, which is a
6 conceptual framework to improve the visual quality of the
7 Albuquerque metropolitan highways as well as their function;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the interstate corridor enhancement plan could
10 serve as a model for similar actions elsewhere in New Mexico;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the state highway and transportation department
13 should give consideration to the aesthetics and appearance of
14 the state's highways and major state roads, in addition to
15 engineering and safety considerations; and

16 WHEREAS, the design of new or upgraded highways and
17 major state roads should enhance the visual appearance of the
18 project and integrate the project into the fabric of the
19 community;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state highway and transportation
22 department be requested to incorporate the design and
23 construction of enhancement elements, including the
24 architectural design of highway structures, landscape
25 elements and public art, into the engineering design; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state highway and
transportation department adopt regulations to include design

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1 and visual enhancement elements in all new highway
2 construction projects or projects to upgrade existing
3 highways and other major state roads; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all requests for proposals
5 issued by the state highway and transportation department for
6 highway engineering projects direct the engineering
7 consultants to include an urban designer-architect, landscape
8 architect and artist on the team; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to members of the state highway commission and
11 the secretary of highway and transportation.