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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/09

SPONSOR Gonzales LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 22/aHTPWC

SHORT TITLE Extend Rail Runner from Santa Fe to Taos SB _____

ANALYST Moser

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$100		\$100	Nonrecurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Amendment

House Transportation and Public Works Committee Amendment to House Joint Memorial 22 provides that the feasibility study to determine possible routes, optimum frequency of trips and potential costs of extending the Rail Runner Express from Santa Fe to Taos shall be conducted by NMDOT “in partnership with appropriate local government entities and interested private persons.” The House Transportation and Public Works Committee Amendment also provides that the study will not commence until sufficient funds have been allocated from local public and private sources to pay for the study and that NMDOT’s financial contribution, if any, will be negligible.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 22 requests the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to complete a feasibility study to determine possible routes, optimum frequency of trips and potential costs of extending the Rail Runner Express from Santa Fe to Taos.

It stipulates that this study should create plans that can be set in action to maximize the use of possible funds that the federal government may make available in the future for public transit systems. And, that those plans should also consider the need to ease the congestion on state

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highways running from Taos in northern New Mexico to Las Cruces in southern New Mexico to reduce the need for expansion of highways and the costs of maintaining those highways. It also requires that the feasibility study, when complete, be presented to appropriate legislative interim committees by November 2010 and that a copy be submitted to the library of the Legislative Council Service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The House Transportation and Public Works Committee Amendment to House Joint Memorial 22 removes any cost to the NMDOT by requiring local public and private sources to pay for the study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMDOT indicates that the completion of the feasibility study referenced in HJM 22 would require the NMDOT to engage the services of a consulting firm experienced in preparing such feasibility studies. The department estimates the cost of this study at \$100,000.

GM/svb:mc