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HOUSE MEMORIAL 81

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Charlotte Little and Joy Garratt and Cynthia Borrego
and Harold Pope and Joshua N. Hernandez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UNSER BOULEVARD CORRIDOR
THROUGH NORTHWEST BERNALILLO COUNTY FROM PARADISE BOULEVARD TO
IRVING BOULEVARD TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF VEHICULAR AND
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AND REDUCE RELATED RISKS.

WHEREAS, Unser boulevard, stretching from New Mexico
highway 550 to Dennis Chavez boulevard in southwest Albuquerque
and running through northwest Albuquerque from Paradise
boulevard to Irving boulevard, is a main thoroughfare in
Bernalillo county that carries people to their places of work,
business districts, stores, government and service facilities
and geological and ancient cultural monuments and trails; and

WHEREAS, increasing volumes of heavy commercial,
industrial and residential traffic along that corridor have

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1 greatly contributed to increased safety and traffic flow
2 issues; and

3 WHEREAS, state highway projects and construction served by
4 the corridor contribute to increased volumes of heavy equipment
5 and construction vehicles using the corridor; and

6 WHEREAS, the heavy volume of traffic between Paradise
7 boulevard and Irving boulevard has increased noise and
8 disruption to residents' quality of life within residential
9 neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor and caused physical
10 damage to barriers intended to insulate those neighborhoods;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo county
13 have initiated several planning efforts to analyze proposed
14 improvements to the corridor; and

15 WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for the department of
16 transportation to leverage local planning efforts and financing
17 to improve the corridor between Paradise boulevard and Irving
18 boulevard for the benefit of residents and others traveling
19 through the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo county;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
22 of transportation be requested to conduct a feasibility study
23 to identify and evaluate possible improvements to the Unser
24 boulevard corridor through Bernalillo county, including
25 measures that would increase safety for motorists, pedestrians

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1 and bicyclists; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be conducted with
3 the involvement of the mid-region metropolitan planning
4 organization, the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo county
5 engineering departments, the metropolitan Albuquerque business
6 improvement district, the mid-region council of governments and
7 other local and regional stakeholders and businesses; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be requested to
9 propose implementation strategies, including the coordination
10 of planning, design and construction of improvements and the
11 development of management and operational agreements that can
12 be used to advance traffic and safety improvement projects; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be requested to
14 leverage existing studies, but that it not commence until
15 sufficient funds have been allocated from local public and
16 private sources to pay for the study such that the department
17 of transportation's financial contribution will be negligible,
18 although the department will be requested to provide technical
19 and administrative support for the study; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study be
21 presented to the appropriate interim legislative committees
22 dealing with economic development and infrastructure issues;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the study be
25 submitted to the city of Albuquerque, Bernalillo county, the

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1 mid-region council of governments and the library of the
2 legislative council service; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of transportation,
5 the executive director of the mid-region council of
6 governments, the mayor of the city of Albuquerque and the board
7 of county commissioners of Bernalillo county.