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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/06

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Alliance for Transportation Institute SB 441

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 441 appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents to continue environmental and health research and demonstration projects by the Alliance for Transportation Institute.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal was not included among the special program funding requests submitted by the University of New Mexico (UNM) to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

UNM would administer the funding provided through this legislation. No significant impact is evident.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED provided information indicating that the Alliance for Transportation Institute (ATRI) program provides support to the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Department of Engineering and Civil Engineering. The Institute's engineering professionals serve as lecturers in the Department of Civil Engineering, teach classes and laboratories in Civil Engineering Materials and Mechanics of Materials. ATRI's technical staff assists with undergraduate teaching laboratories such as Construction Materials, Soil Mechanics, and Mechanics of Materials. This bill supports the continued efforts by ATRI to provide technical assistance to community groups, local governments, and the New Mexico Health and Environment departments by providing technology applications in environmental and health research. This appropriation will support a Precautionary Principle Working Group made up of representatives from community-based organizations, local governments, and state governments to identify environmentally sound practices for state-wide governments.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What sources of revenue currently support the activities of ATRI?

DKE/nt