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HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGNATE REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS AS APPROPRIATE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 AND TO PRESENT THOSE PROJECTS TO THE STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, regional transit districts were established by the New Mexico legislature in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the north central regional transit district made an application to become a regional transit district and was certified by the state transportation commission in September 2004, being recognized as the first regional transit district in the state; and

WHEREAS, the north central regional transit district is comprised of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos

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1 counties, the cities of Espanola and Santa Fe and Ohkay Owingeh  
2 and the Pueblos of Pojoaque, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso and  
3 Tesuque; and

4 WHEREAS, the north central regional transit district is  
5 the only regional transit district in the state to have tribal  
6 members and provide tribal transit services; and

7 WHEREAS, the north central regional transit district  
8 applied in May 2007 to the New Mexico congressional delegation  
9 for a bus facility to be placed in northern New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal transit administration administrator,  
11 however, diverted four hundred eighty million dollars  
12 (\$480,000,000) to fund congestion mitigation projects, thereby  
13 eliminating federal consideration for this project; and

14 WHEREAS, all members of the Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa  
15 Fe and Taos legislative delegation in 2008 signed a letter of  
16 support to the New Mexico congressional delegation for this bus  
17 facility project; and

18 WHEREAS, two New Mexico studies support additional funding  
19 for public transportation, one from New Mexico first and the  
20 second from the regional economic development initiative of  
21 northern New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, the residents of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe  
23 and Taos counties voted in support of the north central  
24 regional transit district in November 2008 by passing a county  
25 regional transit gross receipts tax; and

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1           WHEREAS, the north central regional transit district is a  
2 regional provider of public transportation services in northern  
3 New Mexico and is attempting to construct a bus facility to be  
4 the regional transit district's intermodal hub, to be used for  
5 park and ride, distribution of passengers and fleet facilities;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, congress has passed the American Recovery and  
8 Reinvestment Act of 2009 that President Obama signed into law  
9 on February 17, 2009; and

10           WHEREAS, the bus facility and bus funding are qualified  
11 projects under the definition of the economic stimulus funding  
12 that is available for distribution from the United States  
13 department of transportation and these projects will not  
14 compete with road project funding; and

15           WHEREAS, transit projects are a specific category for set-  
16 aside funding to be distributed to New Mexico; and

17           WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of transportation will  
18 be reviewing project eligibility and funding; and

19           WHEREAS, the state transportation commission and the  
20 governor are authorized to approve funding for these eligible  
21 projects;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary  
24 of transportation be requested to designate regional transit  
25 district capital project needs as appropriate projects for

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1 funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
2 and to present the north central regional transit district's  
3 bus facility and bus projects to the state transportation  
4 commission and the governor for funding out of New Mexico's  
5 portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;  
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the north central regional  
8 transit district has conformed to and complied with all  
9 legislative processes necessary to make it eligible for this  
10 federal funding; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the governor, the commissioners of the state  
13 transportation commission, the secretary of transportation and  
14 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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