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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING CENTER MEDIAN GUARDRAILS ON
RURAL UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 550 FOR PUBLIC AND HUMAN SAFETY.

WHEREAS, United States highway 550 runs from Bernalillo to
Colorado, connecting Albuquerque to northwestern New Mexico;
and

WHEREAS, United States highway 550 moves a great deal of
high-speed traffic on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, rural United States highway 550 is one hundred
thirty-eight miles from Bernalillo to Bloomfield; and

WHEREAS, opposite-direction crashes include head-on
collisions and opposite-direction sideswipes; and

WHEREAS, a head-on collision is defined as an accident
involving the two front ends of two vehicles hitting each

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1 other, occurring due to a party driving a vehicle on the wrong
2 side of the road and in the opposite direction of traffic; and

3 WHEREAS, an opposite-direction sideswipe is defined as a
4 crash that occurs when the vehicles' sides or mirrors come into
5 contact due to a party driving on the wrong side of the road
6 and in the opposite direction of traffic; and

7 WHEREAS, ninety-three opposite-direction crashes,
8 including head-on collisions, have occurred on United States
9 highway 550 in the past five years, including six fatal
10 crashes, forty-eight injury-only crashes and thirty-nine
11 opposite-direction sideswipe crashes; and

12 WHEREAS, four of the ninety-three accidents were reported
13 as alcohol-related; and

14 WHEREAS, increased safety measures need to be taken to
15 prevent further head-on collisions and to help ensure the
16 safety of all drivers; and

17 WHEREAS, many head-on collisions occur between Cuba and
18 Nageezi; and

19 WHEREAS, the installation of a semirigid W-beam barrier or
20 a rigid concrete wall barrier would prevent these opposite-
21 direction crashes;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
24 requested to conduct a study on the feasibility of installing
25 center guardrails on rural United States highway 550 to prevent

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1 opposite-direction crashes and report its findings to the
2 appropriate interim legislative committee; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of transportation.

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