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HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

David E. Adkins

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PASEO DEL VOLCAN  
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR TO THE FUTURE PROSPERITY AND PUBLIC  
WELFARE OF BERNALILLO AND SANDOVAL COUNTIES AND THE STATE OF  
NEW MEXICO AND REQUESTING THAT COMPLETION OF THE CORRIDOR  
WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS BE A BUDGET AND CONSTRUCTION  
PRIORITY FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the planning region for the mid-region council of  
governments includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and  
Valencia counties and the southern portion of Santa Fe county;  
and

WHEREAS, approximately forty-two percent of the people in  
New Mexico currently live within the mid-region council of  
governments' planning region, and this percentage is projected  
to grow to over fifty percent by the year 2035; and

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1           WHEREAS, the population of the mid-region council of  
2 governments' planning region is expected to grow by nearly six  
3 hundred seventy thousand people and exceed one million five  
4 hundred thousand people within the next twenty years; and

5           WHEREAS, the residential communities on the west side of  
6 the Rio Grande in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties are growing  
7 more quickly than those on the east side of the river, and the  
8 forecast is that an additional one-half million people will  
9 live in these communities by 2035; and

10          WHEREAS, cross-river commuting traffic will continue to  
11 grow in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties, necessitating either  
12 the construction of additional river crossings or a more even  
13 distribution of traffic among the existing crossings; and

14          WHEREAS, the current major access routes to the west-side  
15 communities of Bernalillo and Sandoval counties tend to channel  
16 traffic to the south and east and have a finite ability to  
17 increase capacity; and

18          WHEREAS, analyses indicate that the relocation or start-up  
19 of just one medium-sized business along the Paseo del Volcan  
20 transportation corridor could generate approximately one  
21 thousand two hundred temporary construction jobs and one  
22 hundred fifty permanent jobs for New Mexico; and

23          WHEREAS, New Mexico and the Bernalillo/Sandoval counties  
24 metropolitan area face increasing competition from other states  
25 and communities in the southwest for new business operations;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, connectivity and transportation access are key  
3 site-selection criteria for companies in manufacturing and  
4 other business sectors; and

5 WHEREAS, the Paseo del Volcan corridor will run west of  
6 the Double Eagle II airport and connect United States highway  
7 550 in the north to interstate 40 in the south; and

8 WHEREAS, completion of the Paseo del Volcan corridor will  
9 provide alternative access to west-side communities in  
10 Bernalillo and Sandoval counties, channel traffic to the north  
11 and west, facilitate the shipment of manufactured products and  
12 alleviate the need for additional river crossings; and

13 WHEREAS, a significant element of the cost of most roadway  
14 projects is the acquisition of rights of way; however, with  
15 regard to the anticipated route for the Paseo del Volcan  
16 corridor, the landowners for most of the land required by the  
17 project have offered to donate their rights of way; and

18 WHEREAS, the acquisition of the remaining rights of way  
19 for the Paseo del Volcan corridor has been programmed into the  
20 state transportation improvement program, and completion of the  
21 corridor is estimated to cost approximately ninety-six million  
22 dollars (\$96,000,000);

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that completion of  
25 the Paseo del Volcan corridor be recognized as a project of

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1 great importance to the future prosperity and public welfare of  
2 the residents of New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor and the  
4 department of transportation be requested to continue  
5 collaboration with the local governmental members of the mid-  
6 region council of governments and to prioritize budgets,  
7 planning and construction schedules to ensure that the Paseo  
8 del Volcan corridor is completed within seven years; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the New Mexico  
10 congressional delegation be requested to place a high priority  
11 on obtaining federal assistance for the completion of the Paseo  
12 del Volcan corridor; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of transportation,  
15 the executive board of the mid-region council of governments  
16 and the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.