

**MINUTES  
of the  
SECOND MEETING  
of the  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REVENUE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**July 16, 2025  
Border Authority  
221 Pete V. Domenici Highway  
Santa Teresa**

**July 17, 2025  
Multigenerational Center  
4700 McNutt Road  
Santa Teresa**

The second meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Representative Art De La Cruz, chair, on July 16, 2025 at 9:23 a.m. at the Border Authority in Santa Teresa.

**Present**

Rep. Art De La Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Vice Chair  
Rep. Cynthia Borrego  
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil  
Rep. Jenifer Jones  
Rep. Raymundo Lara  
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley

**Absent**

Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. George K. Muñoz  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Joy Garratt

Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Heather Berghmans  
Sen. Pat Boone  
Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Martha Garcia  
Rep. Anita Gonzales  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Rep. Sarah Silva  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Staff**

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS  
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

## **Guests**

The guest list in the meeting file.

## **Handouts**

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

## **References to Webcast**

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the subcommittee meeting, which can be found at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and subcommittee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

## **Wednesday, July 16 — Border Authority**

### **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions (9:23 a.m.)**

Representative De La Cruz called the meeting to order and asked subcommittee members and staff to introduce themselves.

### **Border Highway Connector and Other Border Infrastructure Projects (9:33 a.m.)**

Jonathan Macias, assistant county manager, Dona Ana County; Joseph De La Rosa, chair, Board of Directors, Border Authority; and Gerardo Fierro, executive director, Border Authority, presented on the Border Highway Connector and other projects. Mr. Fierro introduced representatives from Mexico and provided an update on the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, through which trade increased by 43% in just one year. Mr. De La Rosa explained how funding provided by the legislature is being used to construct a cargo runway to further develop the foreign trade zone and spoke about the funding gap for completing the Border Highway Connector.

Ricky Serna, secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT), said that the Border Highway Connector no longer has dedicated state funding due to legislation for that funding dying in the 2025 legislative session. He said that while the DOT is working with the Federal Highway Administration to secure an additional \$125 million in federal funds, it is possible that construction will not begin as scheduled in September. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Interstate and International Border Infrastructure Updates (10:41 a.m.)**

Africa Zepeda, director, Border Affairs, Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations, said that the modernization of the San Jeronimo-Santa Teresa Border Crossing is a priority for Mexico, especially with the closure of the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA). Eduardo Calvo, executive director, El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), discussed various projects being

worked on by the El Paso MPO. Hector Ortiz Orpinel, city clerk, City of Juarez, said that with the closing of the BOTA, the city is working on a mobility plan and communicating with various groups for funding. Alberto Nicolas Lopez, Municipal Institute for Research and Planning, City of Juarez, discussed development plans for the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. Violeta Padilla, secretary, Innovation and Economic Development, State of Chihuahua, discussed Plan Mexico, which provides tax incentives to encourage new investments, business relocation and job creation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

**BorderPlex Digital Assets, LLC Update on Border Infrastructure (11:45 a.m.)**

Jennifer Bradfute, advocate, BorderPlex Digital Assets, LLC, and Lanham Napier, chairman, BorderPlex Digital Assets, LLC, provided information on the company's plans to build a digital infrastructure campus in Santa Teresa and potentially a second campus elsewhere in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

**DOT Maintenance Prioritization and Funding Gaps (1:39 p.m.)**

John Romero, P.E., director, Highway Operations Support Division, DOT, discussed the DOT's plans for pavement preservation throughout the state, including flood mitigation efforts for roads in the Village of Ruidoso. Rick Padilla, P.E., director, Highway Operations, DOT, discussed fiscal year 2026 maintenance projects for Transportation Districts 1 through 6 and the department's general office. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

**Approval of Minutes (2:41 p.m.)**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the subcommittee approved the minutes of the June 5, 2025 meeting.

**Bridge Conditions (2:44 p.m.)**

David D. Quintana, P.E., chief engineer, Infrastructure Division, DOT; Ray M. Trujillo, P.E., bridge bureau chief, DOT; Jeff Vigil, P.E., state bridge management engineer, DOT; and Ben Najera, P.E., bridge design section manager, DOT, presented an overview of the Bridge Bureau of the DOT, which includes sections in bridge management, bridge design and bridge construction. Mr. Najera explained that the DOT is responsible for inspecting and maintaining all bridges in the state except those on federal lands. He said that while the percentage of

bridges in the state in poor condition has improved, nearly two-thirds of the state's bridges are only in fair condition. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

### **Tour of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry and Industrial Parks (3:30 p.m.)**

Members of the committee and staff toured the Santa Teresa Port of Entry and Industrial Parks.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

### **Thursday July 17 — Multigenerational Center**

### **Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:22 a.m.

### **Welcome and City Transportation Infrastructure Update (9:32 a.m.)**

Mario Juarez-Infante, city manager, City of Sunland Park, discussed transportation planned throughout the city and the creation of an entertainment corridor. Ulysus Torres, director of youth soccer, El Paso Locomotive F.C., discussed the resources provided by the football club to youth and young families in the area. Ahmad Mughni, executive director, Property Operations, Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino, provided a brief history of the racetrack and discussed the current status of and improvements to the racetrack.

### **The Border Industrial Infrastructure and Update (10:24 a.m.)**

Jerry Pacheco, president, The Border Industrial Association, provided an overview of business growth on both sides of the Mexico-New Mexico border. Mr. Pacheco discussed the expansion of the Santa Teresa Overweight Zone and the need for improvements to schools, housing and daycare in Santa Teresa.

### **Rail Infrastructure (11:29 a.m.)**

Raquel Espinosa, senior director, Public Affairs, Union Pacific Railroad, presented on the railroad's operations near the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. Raymundo Vasquez, regional manager, Hazardous Material, Union Pacific Railroad, discussed the railroad's emergency responder partnerships and how the railroad focuses on investing in safety. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=7/16/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.