

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

**August 21, 2023
Student Union Ballroom
New Mexico Highlands University
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

The third meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Senator Bill Tallman, chair, on August 21, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom of New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas.

Present

Sen. Bill Tallman, Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. George K. Muñoz
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Sen. Pat Woods

Absent

Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Vice Chair
Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Art De La Cruz
Rep. Harry Garcia

Advisory Members

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Rod Montoya

Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

Guest Legislators

Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Sen. William E. Sharer

Staff

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Cecilia Martinez, Committee Coordinator, LCS
Ian Stroud, Intern, 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, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and subcommittee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, August 21

Welcome and Introductions (9:16 a.m.)

Senator Tallman welcomed everyone and asked subcommittee members and staff to introduce themselves.

Department of Transportation (DOT) District 4 Report (9:25 a.m.)

Rick Padilla, acting director, Highway Operations, DOT, and Adam Romero, P.E., district 4 engineer, DOT, introduced the staff of the District 4 office in Las Vegas. Mr. Romero discussed the range of the district and recent projects completed or underway in District 4. The presentation can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20082123%20Item%201%20District%204%20Report_ARomero.pdf.

Traffic-Related Crashes, Fatalities and Safety Strategies and the Federal Highway Administration's Vision Zero and Safe System Approach in New Mexico (10:31 a.m.)

Alicia Ortiz, acting director, Modal Division, DOT; Jeff Barela, director, Traffic Safety Division, DOT; Jessica Griffin, director, Planning Division, DOT; Robert Rhatigan, director, Geospatial and Population Studies, University of New Mexico (UNM); and Jessica Bloom, research scientist 3, Geospatial and Population Studies, UNM, discussed New Mexico's work to analyze traffic safety data and use that data to improve traffic safety programs. Luis Melgoza, safety and pavement engineer, United States Department of Transportation, New Mexico Division, spoke on Vision Zero, the United States Department of Transportation's approach to reducing vehicle-related injuries and death. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

Wildlife Corridors: Infrastructure Projects and the Wildlife Action Plan (12:14 p.m.)

Trent Botkin, acting manager, Environmental Bureau, DOT, and Jim Hirsch, wildlife coordinator, DOT, presented on the state's efforts to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions via establishing wildlife corridors. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20082123%20Item%203%20Wildlife%20Corridors%20TBotkin-JHirsch.pdf>.

Adoption of Minutes (1:38 p.m.)

On a motion made by Representative Garratt and seconded by Representative Pettigrew, the subcommittee unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of the July 24-25, 2023 meeting.

The State Road Fund: An Overview of the Fund and a Discussion of Existing and Alternative Revenue Sources (1:40 p.m.)

Ricky Serna, secretary, DOT, and Michael Morrison, economist, DOT, explained the revenue sources and distributions of the State Road Fund, as well as the impacts of using the State Road Fund to address non-infrastructure issues such as staffing. Joseph Simon, fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee, provided an overview of how states fund transportation infrastructure, including taxes on fuel and general taxes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2023&ItemNumber=4>.

The TRIP Report and the Rising Costs of Road Construction and Maintenance (3:08 p.m.)

Jim Garcia, executive director, Associated Contractors of New Mexico, and Shawn Hammer, vice president, Associated Contractors of New Mexico, discussed the importance of transportation infrastructure in economic development and how contractors work with the DOT to support transportation. David Quintana, P.E., chief engineer, Office of Infrastructure, DOT; Denise Peralta, P.E., director, Capital Program and Investments Division, DOT; and Jolene Herrera, bureau chief, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, DOT, discussed how rising construction costs have impacted budget projections in the TRIP and Transportation Asset Management Plan reports. The presentation can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20082123%20Item%205%20TRIP%20&%20Rising%20Costs_DQ-DP-JH-pdf.pdf.

Bills for Potential Endorsement: The Transportation Trust Fund, Update to the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque (4:45 p.m.)

Donald T. Lopez, mayor, Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, and Ann Simon, village administrator, Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, informed the subcommittee of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque's work to improve Fourth Street and requested the subcommittee's support in continuing the project.

Senator Gonzales and Senator Muñoz discussed a potential bill that would update the motor vehicle excise tax and hoped that the subcommittee would endorse such a bill for the upcoming session.

Senator Muñoz discussed a potential bill that would create a transportation trust fund to annually distribute funds to the DOT to help the department with its budget deficits. He expressed hope that the subcommittee would endorse such a bill for the upcoming session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2023&ItemNumber=6>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.