

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

**August 21, 2025
Mimbres Valley Learning Center
2300 E. Pine Street
Deming**

**August 22, 2025
Western New Mexico University
J. Cloyd Miller Library
1000 W. College Avenue
Silver City**

The third meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Representative Art De La Cruz, chair, on August 21, 2025 at 10:13 a.m at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center in Deming.

Present

Rep. Art De La Cruz, Chair
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Vice Chair
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Raymundo Lara

Absent

Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. George K. Muñoz
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew

Advisory Members

Rep. Rebecca Dow
Rep. Joy Garratt

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

Guest Legislators

Rep. Luis M. Terrazas
Sen. Gabriel Ramos (8/21)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Gabriel Suazo, Intern, LCS

Minutes Approval

The minutes for this meeting have not been approved by the subcommittee.

Guests

The guest list is 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.

Thursday, August 21 — Deming**Welcome and Introductions (10:13 a.m.)**

Representative De La Cruz greeted everyone, and subcommittee members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and Updates on Local Transportation Infrastructure and Projects (10:24 a.m.)

Representative Jones welcomed the subcommittee to her district and introduced local government members in attendance. Chris Brice, county manager, Luna County, discussed the state of transportation infrastructure projects in Luna County and emphasized the impact of poor water management and lack of drainage on roads and at the Columbus Port of Entry. Charles Turner, government affairs coordinator, Deming Public School District, stated that several students cross the border at the Columbus Port of Entry to attend school in Deming and thus, the port of entry is also a school bus stop. Mr. Turner highlighted the dangers of poor drainage at the port of entry to students waiting for the bus. Philip H. Skinner, mayor, Village of Columbus, reminded the subcommittee of the tour of the Columbus Port of Entry to be held that afternoon.

Carol Ness, managing member, American Magnesium LLC, discussed the progress of a magnesium mining project near Deming, which requires adequate roads for trucks transporting rocks and minerals.

Aaron Sera, city manager, City of Deming, reviewed the city's beautification and landscaping projects for on- and off-ramps along Interstate 10 and introduced Michele Shillito,

mayor, City of Deming, and Cassie Arias-Ward, economic and tourism development coordinator, City of Deming.

At the chair's request, Ricky Serna, secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT), reviewed DOT funding available to local governments for transportation infrastructure improvements. Aaron Chavarria, P.E., M.B.A., District 1 engineer, DOT, reviewed some of the DOT's work in Luna County, which is part of Transportation District 1.

Local Transportation Safety Concerns (11:43 a.m.)

Jeff Gephart, superintendent, Animas Public School District; Russell Johnson, rancher; William Chadborn, sheriff, Hidalgo County; Representative Jones; Joseph Flores, sergeant, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office; and Jeff Perales, lieutenant, New Mexico State Police, presented on road-safety concerns in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, including the lack of adequate pull-off areas on two-lane highways, illegal practices related to wide loads and threats due to dust storms. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Target Zero Initiative Overview and Update (1:41 p.m.)

Amy Whitfield, special director, DOT, reviewed the DOT's plan to reach zero traffic-related fatalities by 2050. Ms. Whitfield stated that the strategic safety plan includes highway safety improvement programs and changes to drivers' education. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

DOT District 6 Engineer Report (2:49 p.m.)

Lisa Boyd Vega, P.E., District 6 engineer, DOT, reviewed the status of and funding for projects in Transportation District 6, which encompasses Cibola and McKinley Counties, portions of Sandoval, San Juan, Rio Arriba, Valencia and Socorro Counties and the majority of Catron County. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Approval of Minutes (3:06 p.m.)

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the subcommittee approved the minutes of the July 16-17, 2025 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of Local Infrastructure and Port of Entry (3:30 p.m.)

The subcommittee toured Deming's infrastructure and the Columbus Port of Entry.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 22 — Silver City**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 a.m. Representatives Terrazas and Dow welcomed the subcommittee to Silver City.

Welcome to Western New Mexico University and Local Updates (10:23 a.m.)

Christopher Maples, Ph.D., interim president, Western New Mexico University, welcomed the subcommittee to the university. Priscilla Lucero, second vice president, Grant County Prospectors, Inc., and executive director, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, welcomed the subcommittee to Grant County and highlighted projects in the area.

Howie Morales, lieutenant governor, State of New Mexico, welcomed the subcommittee and spoke about the importance of transportation infrastructure in rural New Mexico.

A Non-Invasive, No-Cost, No-Risk Solution to the Uninsured Motorists Problem (11:07 a.m.)

Michael Olguin, president, New Mexico Community Safety Company, and Jonathan Miller, chairman, Diversion Management, LLC, discussed the hazards posed by uninsured vehicles and drivers. They proposed that the state establish a public-private partnership to use automated national non-invasive insurance enforcement to ameliorate the issue. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

DOT Major Construction Projects: Funded and Unfunded (11:46 a.m.)

David D. Quintana, P.E., chief engineer, Infrastructure Division, DOT, provided a review of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the budget requirements for construction projects managed by the program. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

State Road Fund and Federal Highway Administration Funding: Past, Present and Future (12:10 p.m.)

Mr. Serna and Michael Morrison, chief economist, DOT, spoke about the ways in which funding for highways in New Mexico has and continues to change since the 2010s, including the

impact of fuel-efficient vehicles to the State Road Fund and evolving state and federal priorities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

DOT District 1 Engineer Report (12:24 p.m.)

Mr. Chavarria provided an update on construction projects in Transportation District 1, which includes Hidalgo, Grant, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra and Socorro Counties, as well as the southern tip of Catron County. He emphasized the need for mitigation efforts to reduce dust storms along highways in the district. In response to questions from the subcommittee, Mr. Serna spoke about the status of projects in Hidalgo County, including a bridge in the City of Lordsburg that closed because of safety concerns. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/21/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.