

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

**June 10, 2019  
State Capitol, Room 322  
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Senator John Arthur Smith, chair, on June 10, 2019 at 1:44 p.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Sen. John Arthur Smith, Chair  
Rep. Patricio Ruiloba, Vice Chair  
Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

**Absent**

Rep. Randal S. Crowder  
Rep. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Clemente Sanchez  
Sen. Pat Woods

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Alonzo Baldonado  
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Rep. Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez  
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Rep. Rachel A. Black  
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Antonio Maestas  
Sen. William H. Payne

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

**Staff**

Peter Kovnat, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Mark Peralta-Silva, Staff Attorney, LCS

**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.

## **Monday, June 10**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Senator Smith asked subcommittee members and staff to introduce themselves.

### **2019 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Kovnat presented the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2019 interim.

A member noted that the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) budget is \$850 million to \$900 million, with about one-half of the budget coming from federal funding. In the 2019 legislative session, the DOT was appropriated \$400 million in nonrecurring funding for projects.

Subcommittee members proposed the following changes to the work plan and meeting schedule:

- addressing issues surrounding the recovery of the remains of people who commit suicide by jumping from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge in Taos;
- hearing a presentation from the Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department regarding license plates and repeal of license plate statutes that are in law but are not being implemented;
- holding a meeting in the Town of Bernalillo;
- discussing United States Route 550 and the Paseo del Volcan extension;
- consolidating some of the work plan agenda items and emphasizing the need to use transportation infrastructure to promote economic expansion;
- naming a highway after the late Senator John Pinto;
- considering changes to DOT reimbursements to New Mexico contractors;
- considering issues surrounding Senate Bill 494 (2019), regarding beer and wine delivery licenses;
- hearing a presentation on which counties receive gross receipt tax revenue when ridesharing services such as Uber and Lyft cross county lines;
- increasing the number of truck stopping areas and rest stops to mitigate the danger posed by semi-trailers parking on the side of the road;
- considering how to make the New Mexico Rail Runner more accessible to tourists to generate economic activity, including a proposal to extend the line to a rail hub in Los Lunas;
- hearing a presentation from the task force created by House Memorial 32 (2019) on specific needs for improvements to the state's transportation and health care systems when serving veterans;
- reviewing how much excise tax revenue has been spent on transportation; and
- considering the need for strategic and pragmatic planning for the long term, including looking into airports, which may provide up to a 10-to-one reimbursement from the federal government for money spent by the state, as well as airports' role in assisting rural areas with emergency services.

The subcommittee voted to change the location of the September 3-4 meeting from Los Lunas to Roswell.

### **Public Comment**

Candyce O'Donnell, commissioner, Taos County Board of County Commissioners, told subcommittee members that Taos County needs help addressing suicides from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge. The bridge is structurally sound enough to raise the railings, which may help prevent people from jumping, she said. She would prefer that the New Mexico State Police respond to these situations because of the possibility that local law enforcement officers may be investigating suicides of individuals they know, increasing the likelihood of severe trauma. Commissioner O'Donnell also noted that security cameras would help investigators. She would like to see the rest area near the bridge come into compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Justin Greene, owner, Dashing Delivery, spoke to the subcommittee on Senate Bill 494 (2019). He noted issues with the independent contractor business model used by Uber and Lyft. He also expressed interest in a report on promoting recreational opportunities in New Mexico.

Representative Abbas Akhil expressed agreement on the need to create more truck stops along state roads, and he proposed adding Wi-Fi at those stops. Representative Akhil told the subcommittee that there is a need to increase the Rail Runner's operating hours and frequency of trips.

Senator Smith instructed Mr. Kovnat to make many of the changes discussed to the work plan and meeting schedule and prepare it for presentation to the New Mexico Legislative Council.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the subcommittee adjourned at 3:08 p.m.