

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

**August 30-31, 2021  
State Capitol, House Chambers  
Santa Fe**

The second meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Representative Angelica Rubio, chair, on August 30, 2021 at 8:06 a.m. in the House Chambers of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Angelica Rubio, Chair  
Sen. Bill Tallman, Vice Chair  
Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom (8/30)  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

**Absent**

Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. George K. Munoz

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Rep. Ambrose Castellano (8/31)  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Rep. Randal S. Crowder  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. Linda Serrato

**Guest Legislator**

Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/31)

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

**Staff**

Peter Kovnat, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Pam Stokes, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Erin Bond, Research Assistant, LCS  
Sara Wiedmaier, Research Assistant, LCS  
Christian Carrillo, Intern, 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.

## **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.

## **Monday, August 30**

### **City of Gallup Updates (8:11 a.m.)**

Louie Bonaguidi, mayor, City of Gallup, provided an update on the city, which is a gateway to New Mexico from the west. Efforts are under way to make the downtown area more enjoyable by adding trees and making it more interesting for visitors. The city is also taking efforts to move into the twenty-first century, including getting involved in the sustainable energy industry. The city is concerned about hits to Gallup's economy, not just from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also from the loss of gross receipts tax revenue on the sale of groceries that has had a significant impact on the city's budget. And while Gallup has lost businesses recently, affecting employment, it is a vibrant community that wants to bring industry into the community.

### **Statewide Conditions of the New Mexico Interstate Highway System: Traffic Volumes, Permitting and Revenue to the State Road Fund (8:33 a.m.)**

Rick Padilla, P.E., executive director of highway operations, Department of Transportation (DOT), made a presentation on the condition of bridges and highways in the state, as well as details on the department's traffic monitoring program. At 9:42 a.m., Laura Bianchini, Ph.D., chief economist, DOT, provided an overview of the forecast of the State Road Fund and the revenue sources that contribute to the State Road Fund. Handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/30/2021&ItemNumber=2>.

### **Update on Autonomous Vehicles (9:54 a.m.)**

Jerry Valdez, executive director, Executive Projects, DOT, introduced Charles Remkes, manager, Intelligent Transportation Systems Operations, DOT, who reported on the progress of the department's rulemaking efforts to establish requirements for testing autonomous vehicles in the state, as required after the enactment of House Bill 270 (2021). Mr. Remkes reported that the

final rule is expected to be effective on July 1, 2022. At 10:00 a.m., Adam Wasserman, managing partner, GLDPartners, and Lois Yates, partner, Economic Development and Aviation Practice Leader, GLDPartners, made a presentation on the status of the mobility industry and clean energy vehicles. Noting that New Mexico is at the center of two critical transcontinental freight routes, that Gallup is a gateway to the state and that the hours of service rules require truckers to stop in or near Gallup, a strategy using a statewide mobility laboratory and Gallup's Mobility Investment District can position New Mexico as a recognized mobility center for the industry. Handouts for the presentations can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=TIRS&Date=8/30/2021&ItemNumber=3>.

#### **Improvements and Permitting for Ports of Entry (1:12 p.m.)**

Franklin Garcia, director, Modal Division, DOT, and Jennifer Block, manager, Ports of Entry Operations, DOT, made a presentation on the state's ports of entry, including improvements made to the ports, costs of oversight and maintenance for each port and revenue from permits. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%204%20Garcia.pdf>.

#### **Commercial Trucking Industry Perspective (2:04 p.m.)**

Johnny R. Johnson, managing director, New Mexico Trucking Association (NMTA), presented the top issues facing the trucking industry, including parking, especially to provide adequate opportunity for rest, the need for truck-only lanes on highways and the benefits of an NMTA-certified truck driving school. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%205%20Johnson.pdf>.

#### **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting were adopted without changes.

#### **BNSF Railway (BNSF) Partnership with State (2:32 p.m.)**

Peiter Hjertstedt, regional manager of economic development, BNSF, provided an overview of BNSF's activities in the country and the state and its strategic economic development programs, including its BNSF-certified site program, created to develop a collection of prospective rail-served industrial sites along the BNSF network. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%206%20jerstedt.pdf>.

#### **Recess**

The subcommittee recessed at 3:02 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 31**

**Overview of DOT District 6 Highway Conditions and Future Projects (8:06 a.m.)**

Lisa Vega, P.E., acting District 6 engineer, DOT, provided an overview of the department's selection process for pavement and bridge projects, the district-level process, the statewide transportation improvement program and the needs and status of highways and bridges in District 6. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%207%20Vega.pdf>.

**History of Highway 491 Four-Lane Improvements (9:11 a.m.)**

Ms. Vega provided a history of the improvements made to the United States Highway 491 corridor that begins in Gallup and continues to the New Mexico-Colorado state line and an overview of existing, new and upcoming projects on the highway. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%208%20Vega.pdf>.

**New Mexico Highways on the Navajo Nation and Rural Road Needs (9:42 a.m.)**

Garret Silversmith, executive director, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, explained the Navajo Nation's long-term transportation goals, transportation funding sources and needs and improvement strategies and costs. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%209%20Presentation%20by%20NDOT.pdf>.

**Green Fuel Technology (10:51 a.m.)**

Wiley Rhodes, co-founder, Escalante H2 Power, discussed how his company is converting the Escalante generating station from coal-fired fuel to hydrogen-fired fuel and the opportunities available by using hydrogen-fueled freight. Prewitt, New Mexico, is an ideal location to provide a transportation connection from the west, east and south coasts. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%2011%20Rhodes%20Presentation.pdf>.

**Private and Local Partnerships Stimulating Economic Development Through Transportation Infrastructure (1:12 p.m.)**

Michael Sage, deputy director, Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation, discussed using infrastructure assets in McKinley County to develop new economic base generators such as the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project that can bring a sustainable and reliable water supply to the community and Gallup's location as a necessary stop for truckers due to the hours of service rules. This strategic location has resulted in plans for a Gallup supercenter

to support those truckers, certification of the Gallup Energy Logistics Park as a BNSF-certified site and creation of the Gallup Mobility Investment District. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20083021%20Item%2010%20Sage.pdf>.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.