

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

**October 23, 2023  
Spaceport Operations Center  
Spaceport America  
Country Road A021  
Truth or Consequences**

The fifth meeting of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee was called to order by Senator Bill Tallman, chair, on October 23, 2023 at 9:29 a.m. at the Spaceport Operations Center at Spaceport America in Truth or Consequences.

**Present**

Sen. Bill Tallman, Chair  
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Vice Chair  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Rep. Jenifer Jones  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew

**Absent**

Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Rep. Art De La Cruz  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales  
Sen. George K. Muñoz  
Sen. Pat Woods

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Kathleen Cates

Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. Pamela Herndon  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. William P. Soules

**Staff**

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS  
Patrick Falace, 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](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, October 23**

### **Welcome and Introductions (9:30 a.m.)**

Subcommittee members and staff introduced themselves.

### **Department of Transportation (DOT) District 1 Engineer Report (9:32 a.m.)**

Aaron Chavarria, P.E., district 1 engineer, DOT; Rick Padilla, P.E., executive director, Highway Operations, DOT; and Ricky Serna, secretary, DOT, discussed projects completed or underway in District 1, which extends from the New Mexico border with Mexico into Socorro County. Upon questions from subcommittee members, the panel discussed charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%201%20District%201%20Report%20ACHavarria.pdf>.

### **DOT Aviation Division Projects and Expenditures (10:27 a.m.)**

Alicia Ortiz, acting director, Modal Division, DOT, and Pedro Rael, director, Aviation Division, DOT, spoke about the Aviation Division's role in supporting New Mexico's aviation economy and highlighted the division's funding sources and projects completed. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%202%20Aviation%20Div%20Report%20PRael%20DMoran.pdf>.

### **Roadable Aircraft (10:56 a.m.)**

Russel Bousfield, legal team member, Samson Sky, reviewed the Samson Sky roadable aircraft and its implications for transportation law and economics. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%203%20Samson%20Sky%20Roadable%20Aircraft%20Presentation.pdf>.

### **Why Can't We Build a Better Road: Developments and Challenges in Environmentally Sound and Cost-Effective Highway Construction (11:44 a.m.)**

Shane McDade, president, Road Recyclers, and Dr. Musharraf Zaman, director, Southern Plains Transportation Center, described how asphalt can be recycled to reconstruct roadways and noted how developments such as carbon capture patches, more durable asphalt and electric cars will affect roads. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%204%20NMLTC%20Presentation%20Oct%202023-Final.pdf>.

### **Zero Fares Coalition (12:53 p.m.)**

Christopher Ramírez, executive director and co-founder, Together for Brothers, and Israel Chávez, president, Dona Ana Village Association, discussed the importance of bus infrastructure within New Mexico and its impact on vulnerable populations. Mr. Ramírez and Mr. Chávez also discussed the history of zero fares for public transport within the state and noted that ridership increased during zero-fare trials. The presentation can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%205%20NM%20State%20Legislature%20Interim%20Committee%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%205%20NM%20State%20Legislature%20Interim%20Committee%20(1).pdf).

### **Get the Lead Out: The Future of Aviation Fuel (1:26 p.m.)**

Senator Soules and Brett Hahn, aviation engine and fuel expert, discussed small aircrafts' continued use of leaded fuel due to a lack of unleaded options, despite long-standing regulations banning leaded fuel in other vehicles. Senator Soules and Mr. Hahn emphasized the environmental and economic impacts of developing infrastructure for non-leaded fuel for small aircrafts in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%205%20Lead%20Emissions%20From%20Aircraft%20Fuels.pdf>.

### **Spaceport America Update (2:19 p.m.)**

Scott McLaughlin, executive director, Spaceport America, provided information regarding projects and maintenance underway at Spaceport America and noted the spaceport's impact on local economies and businesses in the commercial space industry. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/TIRS%20102323%20Item%207%20 McLaughlin SpA TIR S.pdf>.

### **Tour of Spaceport America (Legislators and Staff Only) (2:38 p.m.)**

The subcommittee and guests toured the Spaceport Operations Center and Virgin Galactic.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.