



New Mexico Transportation Information Exchange

NM TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION EXCHANGE

March 7, 2003

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Surface Transportation Policy Project - New Mexico

NM LEGISLATIVE ALERT

With just two weeks and one day before the session ends, much work remains to be done! See “*What you can do*” below each legislative item. Respond with calls to legislators as soon as possible. Or, send a written statement by Fax to (505) 986-4610. Faxes are delivered to legislators’ mailboxes.

Information on “Other Bills to Watch” is also provided, from STPP-NM, NM Passenger Transportation Association, and SAGE Council.

HB 102 / SB 34: ENABLING REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICTS

Sponsored by State Representative Dan Silva (D-Albuquerque) and Senator Ben Altamirano (D-Silver City), the RTD bill would provide a framework for local governments to cooperate on regional transit projects.

The House bill has moved to the Senate, first with a hearing before Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee, where it was approved. The next hearing is before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where there is opposition and resistance to scheduling the bill for a hearing.

What you can do:

1. Please request Senate Judiciary Committee members to schedule a committee hearing and support passage of HB 102.

Senate Judiciary Committee

Legislator, Party / County, District # / Phone

Michael S. Sanchez, Chair, Dem. / Valencia, 29 / 986-4487

Cisco McSorley, Vice Chair, Dem. / Bernalillo, 16 / 986-4266

Dede Feldman, Dem. / Bernalillo, 13 / 986-4482

Ramsay L. Gorham, Rep / Bernalillo, 10 / 986-4369

Clinton D. Harden, Rep / Col., Curry, Harding, S. Miguel, Quay, Union, 7 / 986-4260

Steve Komadina, Rep / Bernalillo, Sandoval, 9 / 986-4377

Linda M. Lopez, Dem. / Bernalillo, 11 / 986-4737

Richard C. Martinez, Dem. / Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, 5 / 986-4389

William H. Payne, Rep / Bernalillo, 20 / 986-4276

Lidio G. Rainaldi, Dem. / Cibola, McKinley, 4 / 986-4310

2. Ask the leadership in the Senate and House to ensure that the \$1.9 million appropriation for Regional Transit Districts be included in the final Budget Bill. Without funding, the necessary planning processes for regional transit districts are not likely to occur.

House Leadership

Max Coll, Chair of House Appropriations and Finance / Santa Fe, 47 / 986-4320

Ben Lujan, Speaker of the House / Santa Fe, 46 / 986-4782

Danice Picraux, Majority Floor Leader / Bernalillo, 46 / 986-4777

Ted Hobbs, Minority Floor Leader / Bernalillo, 20 / 986-4757

Senate Leadership

Richard Romero, President Pro-Tempore / Bernalillo, 12 / 986-4733

Manny Aragon, Majority Floor Leader / Bernalillo, Valencia, 14 / 986-4727\

Stuart Ingle, Minority Floor Leader / Chaves, Curry, Roosevelt, 27 / 986-4702

The Senate approved the Senate version, SB 34, on Feb. 17. It was amended with minor changes. It has moved over to House committees, and, so far, has passed the House Transportation Committee, 9-0. The next committee hearing is in House Taxation and Revenue.

**SB 556 / HB 729: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 55 / HOUSE MEMORIAL 16**

A. The Bill

Sponsored by Senator Linda Lopez (D-Albuquerque) and Rep. Richard Vigil (D-San Miguel, Torrance), the bill sets up the Safe Routes to Schools program and makes an appropriation of \$750,000 to establish the Safe Routes to Schools program fund.

Senate Bill 556 has moved through the two assigned committees. It was amended in the Senate Finance Committee with the removal of the \$750,000 appropriation from the General Fund. The amended version passed 6-0. Senator Lopez will continue to work for the appropriation throughout the budget process. A full Senate vote was anticipated today, March 7.

House Bill 729 has moved through the House Education Committee and will be heard in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

What you can do:

Contact your legislator if he or she is on the HAFC and urge support for House Bill 729.

House Appropriations and Finance Committee

Legislator / County, District # / Phone

Max Coll, Chair, Dem. / Santa Fe, 47 / 986-4320

Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Vice Chair, Dem. / Santa Fe, 48 / 986-4435

Henry Kiki Saavedra, Deputy Chair, Dem. / Bernalillo, Valencia, 10 / 986-4316

Ray Begaye, Dem. / San Juan, 4 / 986-4436

Donald E. Bratton, Rep / Lea, 62 / 986-4451

Mary Helen Garcia, Dem. / Dona Ana, 34 / 986-4438

John A. Heaton, Dem. / Eddy, 55 / 986-4432

Rhonda S. King, Dem. / Bern., Santa Fe, Torrance, 50 / 986-4234

Larry A. Larranaga, Rep / Bernalillo, 27 / 986-4215

Patricia A. Lundstrom, Dem. / McKinley, San Juan, 9 / 986-4435
Terry T. Marquardt, Rep / Dona Ana, Otero, 53 / 986-4226
Brian K. Moore, Rep / Curry, Harding, Quay, Roosevelt, San Miguel, Union, 67 / 986-4467
Rory J. Ogle, Rep / Bernalillo, 28 / 986-4450
Pauline J. Ponce, Dem. / Chavez, 58 / 986-4436
Nick L. Salazar, Dem. / Mora, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Taos, 40 / 986-4433
J. Paul Taylor, Dem. / Dona Ana, 33 / 986-4438
Sandra L. Townsend, Rep / San Juan, 3 / 986-4214
Jeannette O. Wallace, Rep / Los Alamos, Sandoval, Santa Fe, 43 / 986-4452

B. The Memorial

“Safer Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic,” advises NMSHTD that the department should direct its efforts and Federal transportation funding on “improving bicycle and pedestrian access and on traffic-calming projects in school zones.”

The assigned Senate Committees have approved the memorial, SJM 55. A full Senate vote is expected today, March 7.

The full House passed HM 16 on March 6, 60-0.

HOUSE BILL 534 / SENATE BILL 561: TRANSIT CAP REMOVAL

Sponsored by Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela (D-Santa Fe) and Senator Dede Feldman (D-Albuquerque), the bill will remove the expenditure cap on funds used by NMSHTD for "Public Mass Transportation.”

The Senate has approved the bill, 25-0.

The House committees have approved the bill, and it is now awaiting a full vote in the House.

What you can do:

Contact your Representative and urge support of House Bill 534.

SB 640: NM PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

Sponsored by Senator Bernadette M. Sanchez (D-Albuquerque), the bill provides funding for a feasibility study regarding the potential for passenger rail service linking the El Paso-Juarez metropolitan area with New Mexico towns and cities along the Rio Grande corridor and continuing on to Denver, Colorado.

The Senate Committees have passed the bill. A full senate vote is expected today, March 7.

HB 790: MILE-BASED AUTO INSURANCE COVERAGE

HB 790, sponsored by Rep. Brian Moore (R-Clayton), is very similar to a previous bill, HB 532, which was sponsored by Rep. Dan Silva. The bill is also known as “Pay As You Drive” or PAYD. It provides for auto insurance companies to provide optional insurance prices based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT), thus favoring owners of cars that are not driven as much as the average number of miles.

The bill has been approved by House Transportation Committee and will be heard before the House Business and Industry Committee on Thursday, March 13.

What you can do:

Call members of the House Business and Industry Committee and urge their support!

Legislator / County, District # / Phone

Fred Luna, Chair / Valencia, 8 / 986-4329

Debbie A. Rodella, Vice-chair / Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Taos, 41 / 986-4248

Jose A. Campos / Curry, DeBaca, Guad., Roosevelt, 63 / 986-4234

Daniel R. Foley / Chaves, Lincoln, Otero, 57 / 986-4211

George J. Hanosh / Cibola, McKinley, 6 / 986-4243

Ted Hobbs / Bernalillo, 20 / 986-4757

Dona G. Irwin / Luna, 32 / 986-4242

Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert / Sandoval, 44 / 986-4467

Bengie Regensberg / Colfax, Guad., Mora, San Miguel, Taos, 68 / 986-4464

Raymond M. Ruiz / Bernalillo, 16 / 986-4249

James G. Taylor / Bernalillo, 12 / 986-4774

Thomas C. Taylor / San Juan, 1 / 986-4450

Jim Trujillo / Santa Fe, 45 / 986-4254

Robert White / Bernalillo, 30 / 986-4214

Other Bills to Watch in the House and Senate

Provided by STPP-NM, NM Passenger Transportation Association, and SAGE Council.

CREATE STATE TRANSIT FUND

HB 690, sponsored by Representative Dan Silva

The bill creates a state transit fund, funded by distributions from the gross receipts tax on gasoline, to support any transit program or system in the state. The bill has passed through the House Transportation Committee in an amended version.

Committees: HTC/HTRC/HAFC-HTC

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ACT

HB 4, sponsored by Representative Dan Silva

The bill makes appropriations in categories for NMSHTD operations. It has passed in the House committees with a substitute.

Committees: HTC/HAFC-HTC

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT OF PASEO DEL NORTE

HJM-84, sponsored by Rep. Eric Youngberg

The memorial supports the extension of Paseo Del Norte by requesting the NM Congressional delegation to acquire federal funds. It was tabled in the House Transportation Committee.

EXTENSION OF PASEO DEL NORTE

HCO 1118, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Anderson

This is a House Capital Outlay request for \$12.5 million for Paseo del Norte and Unser Blvd.

NMSHTD NAME CHANGE

HB 881, sponsored by Rep. Dan Silva

The bill changes the name of NMSHTD to the New Mexico State Transportation Department. It has passed in the House Transportation Committee and will be heard next in the House Judiciary Committee.

REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ACT

SB 420, sponsored by Senator Linda Lopez

The bill authorizes a tax for management, construction and operation of a public transit system within a district area, if approved by voters. It would be used in conjunction with Regional Transit Districts as established in the RTD Act (HB 102/SB 34). A hearing in Senate Finance is pending. Committees: SCORC/SFC-SCORC

LOCAL OPTION TO FUND RAIL SYSTEM

SB 666, sponsored by Senator Dede Feldman

The bill authorizes local governments to impose a local gas tax of up to three cents per gallon to be used for transit and light rail purposes. It passed in the Senate Committee and was amended and approved by the full Senate.

You can locate and download a bill that has been introduced and determine its status in committee, on the New Mexico legislature home page (updated on a nightly basis):

<http://www.legis.state.nm.us/>

For more information from STPP and other advocates on these legislative proposals, join our online group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NMTransInit/>. Fact Sheets, lists of supporters for the bills, and other information are posted, and members are welcome to submit items. Membership is open to staff and members of non-governmental organizations. Subscribe by e-mailing a note to: NMTransInit-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

SUBMISSIONS CALL!

Please send calendar items and articles for the next full issue of this e-newsletter, by March 27.

The NM Transportation Information Exchange is an e-mail newsletter of the Surface Transportation Policy Project's New Mexico office. Submissions are welcome on transportation and community-building topics. Please send material to Joanne McEntire, Editor: jomcen@spinn.net; or mail: STPP-NM, 1001 Marquette Ave., Albuquerque, 87102; or Fax: (505) 248-1361.

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The Surface Transportation Policy Project is a national coalition working for transportation policies and investments that protect neighborhoods, increase access to goods and services, promote social equity, preserve the environment, strengthen the economy, and improve quality of life. STPP has offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Washington DC.