



# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 1690  
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*The Honorable*  
**Marvin A. Blyden**  
*Vice President*

**CHAIRMAN**  
Housing, Transportation &  
Telecommunications

**VICE CHAIR**  
Culture, Sports, Parks & Youth

**MEMBER**  
Budget, Appropriations & Finance

Economic Development &  
Agriculture

Health, Hospitals & Human  
Services

## Committee Report—Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunications

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications convened on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 9:09 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, the Office of Disaster Recovery, the Department of Public Works, all the Telecommunications providers within the territory.

Discussion topic included:

- An update on the progress of the housing programs under the purview of the V.I. Housing Finance Authority, including the status of homeownership programs throughout the territory.
- The outlook for affordable housing and homeownership in the territory.
- Status of home repair programs.
- Status of the emergency housing programs administered by the Authority.
- Status of programs to combat housing instability.
- Update on transportation matters in the territory, including the status of roads and road projects and the status of public transportation, including bus and passenger ferry services.
- Update on telecommunication issues that impact the economy and the quality of life for Virgin Islands residents.
- Update on the status of present infrastructure projects and plans for future development, with a focus on planning and utilization of federal broadband funding.

All invited testifiers attended the hearing with the exception of Mr. Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer, VI Water & Power Authority. Mr. Knight provided a brief written testimony that was not read into the record.

### Legislative Attendance

Committee Members Present	Non-Committee Members Present
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	Senator Novelle E. Francis

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Senator Samuel Carrion	Senator Donna Frett-Gregory
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	Senator Milton A. Potter
Senator Ray Fonseca	Senator Diane T. Capehart
Senator Marise C. James	Senator Javan James, Sr.
Senator Carla Joseph	

**Invited Testifiers**

Mr. Eugene Jones, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority	Ms. Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery
The Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works	Attorney Ileann Canellas, Managing Corporate Counsel, T-Mobile Puerto Rico
Mr. Ravindra Maywahlall, General Manager, Liberty USVI	Ms. Geraldine Pitt, CEO, Viya, Inc.
Mr. Stephan Adams, CEO, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN)	Mr. Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer, VI Water & Power Authority
Ms. Kimika Woods, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget	

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Prepared by:   
 Vanessa Ortiz Williams  
 Legislative Researcher