



The Honorable
Marvin A. Blyden
Senator

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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CHAIRMAN
Housing, Transportation &
Telecommunications

VICE CHAIR
Budget, Appropriations & Finance

MEMBER
Economic Development &
Agriculture

Culture, Youth, Aging & Parks
Health, Hospitals, & Human Services

Committee Report

Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunications

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications convened on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 9:43 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, and Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority.

Discussion topics included:

- Update on key matters related to the operations of the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- Provide the DPW's short- and long-term goals, staffing updates, transportation and bus route extensions, ferry operations, engineering services to GVI agencies, and the current state of the territory's roads, bridges, and cemeteries.
- Challenges that DPW is facing and their plans to address them to better serve the residents of our territory.
- Discussion on the operations of the Virgin Island Waste Management Authority as it relates to their plans and priorities for the coming year.
- Update on the status of VIWMA's staffing, payroll challenges and vendor payments.
- Status of VIWMA's tipping fees, wastewater treatment plants, pump station operations and capacity, landfills within the territory, garbage collection, oil collection, and any other challenges the agency is facing, along with their plans to overcome them to better serve the community.
- Members of the Delegation from San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic were in attendance visiting the VI in association with Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.'s Safe Haven Bill. Members included Colonel Dr. Altagracia Hernandez, Major Alexandra Navarro Gil, Major Maria Mabel Navarro Gil, Lt. Colonel Jose-Francisco Ortega M., 1st Lt. Jhamer Trinidad Cornear, 1st Lt. Flavio Guevara, Director of Civil Defense Starlin Lehger, and Colonel Angel Jimenez Brigade Commander.

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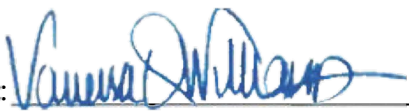
Legislative Attendance

Committee Members Present	Non-Committee Members Present
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Senator Novelle E. Francis
Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	Senator Avery L. Lewis
Senator Ray Fonseca	Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	Senator Milton Potter
Senator Marise C. James	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator Carla Joseph	Senator Alma Francis-Heyliger
Senator Kurt A. Vialet	Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Senator Hubert L. Fredericks	

Invited Testifiers

Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works	Darryl Griffith, Interim Executive Director, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority
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The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Prepared by: 
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