



The Honorable
Marvin A. Blyden
Senator

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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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 Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 9:21 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive testimony from all the telecommunications servicers in the territory.

Testifiers included Liberty USVI, T-Mobile, Viya now called One Communications, and the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network. Additional agencies that were invited consisted of the Department of Public Works, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Bureau of Information Technology.

Also, Bill No. 36-0022 was heard and held in the second block. An Act amending title 28 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 31, subchapter I, section 752 relating to notice for the termination of month-to-month residential tenancies and adding section 752 (b) requiring fair notice for rent increases for residential tenancies.

Legislative Vote on Bill No. 35-0022

Committee Members	Y/N
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Y
Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	Y
Senator Ray Fonseca	Y
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	Y
Senator Marise C. James	Y
Senator Carla Joseph	N
Senator Kurt A. Violet	Y

Discussion topics included:

- Status of present infrastructure projects and plans for future development, with a focus on planning and utilization of federal broadband funding.
- Issues and challenges regarding coordination between telecommunications providers and government agencies on issues such as permitting, access to poles and conduits, etc.
- Issues and challenges between telecommunications providers as it relate to the portability of telephone numbers.
- Status of the BEAD Program-related broadband expansion, equity and access projects.
- The session also included a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) amid significant changes in federal policy and funding priorities.

Legislative Attendance

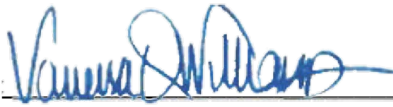
Committee Members Present	Non-Committee Members Present
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Senator Novelle E. Francis
Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	
Senator Ray Fonseca	
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	
Senator Marise C. James	
Senator Carla Joseph	
Senator Kurt A. Vialet	

Invited Testifiers

Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works	Ravindra Maywahlall, General Manager, Liberty, USVI
Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority	Attorney Ileann Canellas, Managing Corporate Counsel, T-Mobile, Puerto Rico
Stephan Adams, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network	Siobhan James-Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, Viya now One Communications
Julio Rhymer, Director, Office of Management and Budget	Rupert Ross, Director, Bureau of Information Technology
Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority	Troy Schuster, State Director, AAPR, American Association of Retired Persons – VI
Dan Derima, Executive Director, Meeting the Needs of the Community	Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Board Secretary, Virgin Islands Continuum of Care
Andrea Shillingford, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands	

Liberty USVI's Ravindra Maywahlall, General Manager was unable to attend the hearing due to the passing of his mother the day before the hearing.

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Prepared by: 
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Chief Legislative Researcher