



*The Honorable*  
**Marvin A. Blyden**  
*Senator*

# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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**CHAIRMAN**  
Housing, Transportation &  
Telecommunications

**VICE CHAIR**  
Budget, Appropriations & Finance

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Health, Hospitals, & Human Services

## Committee Report

### Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunications

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications convened on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 10:12 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Housing Authority and the Department of Public Works.

The Committee heard testimony from the Virgin Islands Housing Authority regarding an update and discussion on the Virgin Islands Housing Authority's (VIHA) public housing operations, including vacant units, waiting lists, maintenance, habitability, resident safety and voucher utilization. Testimony addressed the 188 vacant units identified in the FY2027 Post Audit Report during the agency's budget hearing, landlord participation, inspection delays, housing access and displacement prevention. The Committee reviewed redevelopment and homeownership projects; including Donoe, Tutu, Walter I.M. Hodge, senior housing and Williams Delight, with attention to financing, timelines, affordability, resident relocation and the impact of VIHFA's HUD suspension. The Committee also examined resident services, VIHA's financial condition and workforce capacity, including staffing, recruitment, retention and labor relations; and Capital Fund expenditures.

The Department of Public Works provided an overview and discussion on the roads, drainage and transportation operations, including roadway projects, flooding, storm drainage and federal funding. Testimony addressed project delivery, road repair priorities, VITRAN, paratransit and ferry service, traffic safety, ADA accessibility, maintenance and excavation permits. The Committee also reviewed Gasvaerks Gade and other priority repairs, workforce vacancies, contracting, vendor payments and project oversight. Finally, DPW provided an update on the implementation of Section 9 of Act No. 9100 regarding fees and procedures for non-commercial advertising signs on public roads.

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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 Lewis           |
| Senator Ray Fonseca             | Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. |
| Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff       | Senator Kenneth L. Gittens    |
| Senator Marise C. James         |                               |
| Senator Carla Joseph            |                               |
| Senator Kurt A. Vialet          |                               |

## Invited Testifiers

|                                                                                 |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Dwayne Alexander,<br>Executive Director<br>Virgin Islands Housing Authority | Mr. Reuben Jennings<br>Acting Commissioner<br>Department of Public Works |
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The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Prepared by:   
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Chief Legislative Researcher