

Town Hall Implementation Team Summary of Results August 2009

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION



The **New Mexico Department of Transportation** and **New Mexico Association of Regional Councils** convened a statewide town hall in August 2008. The event, *Sustainable Transportation: Paying Our Way From Here to There*, brought together state and local policymakers, community leaders and citizens, business leaders and managers, people with special transportation needs (e.g., commuters, bicyclists, seniors, first responders, students, etc.), and technical specialists in transportation, economic development, and finance from all regions of New Mexico to develop sustainable ideas for preserving and improving our state’s highways, bridges, and public transportation. Over 150 people took part in the event. After the town hall, an implementation team was established to advance the participants’ recommendations. The team met from October 2008 through June 2009. The team reviewed the recommendations and chose to focus on publicizing the town hall recommendations to policymakers and the general public and to support key legislation at the 2009 legislative session. The results of these efforts are highlighted below. *(The full report, containing all 11 final town hall recommendations, is available at www.nmfirst.org).* The implementation team is chaired by Bill Hartman, Flywheel Ventures, from Bernalillo.

Priority	Objectives	Status
Support Key Transportation Legislation <i>(Advancing town hall recommendations 7 and 11)</i>	Demonstrate grass-root support for transportation legislation that is consistent with the town hall recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HB 374 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax to State Road Fund (Gonzales) ▪ HM 5 Review Transportation Needs & Identify Funding Strategies (Gonzales) ▪ SB 213 Weight Distance Tax Act (Beffort) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HM 5 PASSED. It was introduced by Representative Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales. ▪ SB 213 PASSED. It was introduced by Senator Sue Wilson Beffort.
Publicize Town Hall Recommendations <i>(Advancing town hall recommendations 1 and 2)</i>	Increase policymakers’ awareness of problems faced by the New Mexico Department of Transportation to create and maintain a sustainable state transportation system and encourage support for adequate transportation funding, as well as increase the voting public’s awareness of the need for a sustainable state transportation system, its key components, and required funding.	Volunteers consistently attended the meetings of statewide policymaking groups to advocate for the town hall recommendations, including meetings of the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee, House Transportation and Public Works Committee, Transportation Commission, and NM Finance Authority Oversight Committee. The chair continues to participate on the Sustainable Transportation Commission established by House Memorial 5 and to interface with the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and the Association for Commerce and Industry regarding their support. Team members also met with the NM DOT communications staff to outline a public relations and marketing plan to build public awareness of the issues.