



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
Part of
Public Record

February 2, 2024

Martin Oberstar, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street, S.W.,
Washington, DC 20423-0001.

Dear Chairman Oberstar,

In response to the Surface Transportation Board's Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancies and Solicitation for Nominations (Docket No. EP 774 - Sub-No. 1, January 4, 2024), the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is pleased to nominate David Harris, NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Director, to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee as one of the commuter rail representatives.

David has a diverse range of transportation experience in the New York City Metropolitan Region prior to coming to New Mexico in 2005. At New Mexico DOT, he oversees our Transit and Rail Division. NMDOT owns New Mexico Rail Runner Express (NMRX) Commuter Rail and railroad consisting of over 120 miles, 15 stations, and rolling stock and equipment with over ten round trips per weekday. Additionally, Amtrak's Southwest Chief operates daily on 87 miles of NMDOT territory, including 23 miles of sole use territory separate from the commuter rail.

He regularly provides leadership and oversight of Rail Runner in coordination with NMDOT's daily operations partner Rio Metro Regional Transit District to help improve efficiency and develop policies and procedures for use of the Rail Runner corridor. He is lead negotiator for agreements with NMRX railroad tenants BNSF, Santa Fe Southern, and Amtrak, and provides oversight of agreements with the tribes and pueblos through which Rail Runner operates, the City of Santa Fe, and agreements with third parties (e.g. utilities, film crews) that desire access to NMDOT railroad property.

Additionally, I believe David is uniquely positioned to represent the sensitive and diverse needs of State DOTs and commuter rail colleagues based on his active involvement through committees at APTA, AASHTO, and CTAA, as well as being a member of FTA's Transit Advisory Committee on Safety (TRACS) and the Transit Cooperative Research Program's Transit Oversight and Project Selection (TOPS) Commission.

The Surface Transportation Board's requested information for this nomination for Passenger Rail Advisory Committee is as follows:

(1) David Harris, NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Director,
davidc.harris@dot.nm.gov , 505-699-4350;

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Ricky Serna
Cabinet Secretary

Commissioners

Chandelle Sisneros
Commissioner
District 1

Gary Tonjes
Commissioner
District 2

Hilma E. Chynoweth
Commissioner, Vice Chairman
District 3

Walter G. Adams
Commissioner, Chairman
District 4

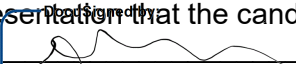
Thomas C. Taylor
Commissioner
District 5

Charles Lundstrom
Commissioner, Secretary
District 6

Page 2

(2) Serve as one of two representatives from commuter rail operators whose operations use facilities utilized by (i) Amtrak and (iii) rail freight operators;

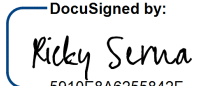
(3) See paragraphs two through four above;

(4) a representation that the candidate is willing to serve as a member of the PRAC:
Signature ; and,

(5) a statement that the candidate agrees to serve in a representative capacity:
I, David Harris, agree to serve in a representative capacity .

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

5910E8A6255842F...
Ricky Serna
Cabinet Secretary

DAVID C. HARRIS, AICP
New Mexico Department of Transportation
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505.699.4350
Davidc.harris@dot.nm.gov

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Transit and Rail Division Director
New Mexico Department of Transportation
July 2005 to Present

Transit and Rail Division Director

- Manage the Department's statewide surface transit programs totaling more than \$35 million operating budget annually, and additional oversight of \$70 million in local and discretionary funds.
- Support the development of bus and commuter rail transit, and ridesharing as viable transportation choices in New Mexico.
- Oversee the state of good repair of the NMDOT-owned, nearly \$1 billion New Mexico Rail Runner Express assets.
- Leadership and coordinated partnership on the \$60 million federal mandate to successfully install Positive Train Control (PTC) on the NMDOT-owned Rail Runner asset.
- Act as primary transit and rail liaison for the Department with public, private, and other state, interstate, federal, national agencies/organizations, and lead the development of the Division's legislative program proposals.
- Manage the ongoing activities of the Transit and Rail Division from an administrative, technical, and budgetary perspective, including supervision and managerial oversight of 22 full-time employees.
- Oversight of federal grant funds received for the Division's programs and compliance with federal and state rules and regulations.
- Manage relations with other transit and rail organizations, such as regional transit districts, transit associations, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning organizations, and others.
- Supervise 22 staff, consultants/vendors, and provide guidance on transit, rail and multi-modal issues to executive staff and other staff on a project basis.
- Administer federal grant funds that support rural and small urban general public and special needs passenger transportation programs totaling over \$25 million annually.
- Administer federal grant funds and acts as lead for special projects, such as NM Rail Runner Express commuter rail station level boarding, positive train control, and transit facilities and discretionary funding ranging up to \$55 million per project.
- Oversee the responsibility as the Federal Transit Administration designated recipient for all rural and small urban transit programs in New Mexico.
- Manage the New Mexico DOT Park and Ride intercity bus service and contractor, the fifth largest bus transit provider by ridership in New Mexico: \$8 million for operations and \$1 million for capital annually.

- Provide technical/policy/coordination/implementation assistance to Regional Transit Districts (RTDs).
- Oversee statewide technical assistance and coordination efforts to public and private non-profit public transit systems.

Interim Director: Traffic Safety Division

New Mexico Department of Transportation

June 2009 to June 2010

- While Transit Bureau Manager, concurrently managed the Department's behavioral traffic safety programs, including driver education, public information, ignition interlock, media, occupant protection, motorcycle safety, traffic data, and alcohol programs.
- Administer federal grant and state funds that support traffic safety programs equaling over \$20 million.
- Strategically plan with multiple agencies and local and tribal governments to reduce the number of DWI's, traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities in New Mexico.
- Represent the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau as primary traffic safety liaison with law enforcement, the judiciary, state legislature, community and advocacy groups, federal and state agencies and research institutions.
- Oversee compliance with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regulations.
- Oversee staff that maintains and analyzes statewide traffic safety data.
- Directly supervise 29 staff, over 6 consultants/vendors, and provide guidance on traffic safety issues to executive staff and other staff on a project basis.

Director: Office of Policy

New York City Department of Transportation

May 2002 to July 2005

- Supervise staff with the core mission of articulating, presenting, and/or defending the agency's policies for sustaining the safe and efficient movement of people and goods wherever current and long term environmental/transportation planning, investment and funding policies and programs are discussed.
- Advise on transportation policy/planning/operational initiatives impacting or being implemented by the City, including lead policy support/project management on Bus Rapid Transit and value pricing.
- On behalf of the Commissioner, serves as the principal liaison for the agency at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to coordinate short term and long-term transportation planning and funding for the region. Review the five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 20 year Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Both include more than \$26 and \$120 billion in multi-modal, multi-jurisdiction transportation investments, respectively.
- Advise executive staff on strategies to secure and optimize federal or state grant opportunities and assure uninterrupted flow of federal grant funds for City projects; Develop and review strategy documents for agency executives on such issues as impact of local, state or federal transportation-related legislation.
- Successfully secured increasingly higher proportions of grant funds - an average of between 12.1% to more than 35% increase from multiple sources for the department. Creatively articulate

arguments that resulted in successfully expanding the number of divisions and programs receiving grant funds.

- Ensure that the agency's projects are clearly identified and presented in the MPO's multi-billion dollar RTP and TIP.
- Represent the City and agency at various Working Groups (Air Quality Conformity, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Congestion Management Systems, Environmental Justice, Freight Transportation, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Safety, Ferries, Job Access and Reverse Commute) and various multi-agency study Technical Advisory Committees.
- Coordinate reporting of and adherence to guidelines for federally-funded agency planning projects.
- Represent the agency on various national transportation policy support organizations, including Public Technology, Inc. (PTI), the I-95 Corridor Coalition, and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO).
- Directly supervise 3-5 staff, and coordinate other senior staff on a project basis.

Manager: Regional Transportation Planning

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA)

Division of Planning and Information Technology

Newark, NJ

September 1997 to May 2002

- Manage the Regional Planning Department's program activities and directly supervise senior-level planners.
- Manage the development and maintenance of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Access and Mobility 2025, which provides direction and guidance for over \$1 billion in annual regional transportation investment.
- Track and review planning phases of multiple projects in the project development process.
- Manage the NJTPA's commitments for Federal Transit Administration's Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program, including FTA's Planning Challenge Grant.
- Develop and implement the Corridor Planning Process, a planning framework that prioritizes investment based on data management systems, operational planning techniques, and public/planning partner outreach for 18 major passenger and freight transportation corridors.
- Manage production of GIS/technical products for the Corridor Planning Process, including the coordination of division staff and other agencies (NJDOT/NJTransit) to integrate efforts in information technology, performance measures, management systems, and modeling into coherent and comprehensive tools that serve the mission of the RTP.
- Develop a regional planning policy guideline in which land use and transportation investment are integrated and monitored.
- Participate in Regional Air Quality Conformity determinations.
- Extensive public speaking experience for conferences, development of planning processes, public outreach, elected officials and NJTPA committee and board support.
- Directly supervise 3-7 staff, and coordinate other senior staff on a project basis.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation
New York, NY

MS Urban Planning, Concentration in Physical Planning, 1998

Thesis: Getting to Work First in Northern New Jersey: Transportation Strategies and Employment Opportunities in the Dawn of Welfare-to-Work

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, NJ

BA Geography (Environmental), 1993

Environmental Resource Monitoring Certificate (Cook College), 1993

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- AICP Certification: American Institute of Certified Planners (1999 - present)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO):
 - Public Transportation Council Executive Committee Member
 - Multi-State Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) Chair
 - AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence Advisory Board
 - AASHTO Innovation Initiative Committee, Transit
- American Public Transportation Association:
 - Authorization Task Force Committee
 - Legislative Committee
 - Funding, Finance & Tax Policy Legislative Subcommittee
 - Commuter Rail Committee
 - Commuter Rail CEOs Subcommittee
 - Commuter Rail PTC Subcommittee
 - Commuter & Intercity Passenger Rail Legislative Subcommittee
 - Research and Technology Committee
 - State Affairs Committee
- Community Transportation Association of America:
 - National Board Director (2021-)
 - New Mexico State Delegate (2007-2018)
 - Certified Transit Public Administrator (2010-present)
 - Certified Safety and Security Officer (2013-present)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA):
 - Bus Safety and Security Committee Member (2008)
 - Transit Advisory Committee on Safety (TrACS) committee member, three-time appointee (2013 -)
- National Academy of Sciences, Transportation Research Board:
 - Transit Oversight Project Selection (TOPS) Committee (2022 -)
 - Standing Committee on Transit Safety and Security
 - National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) for the AASHTO Standing

Committee on Public Transportation Panel Member

- Chair, NCHRP Project Panel on Best Practices in Coordination of Public Transit and Ride Sharing
- TCRP Synthesis Panel on Transit Safety Risk Assessment Methodologies
- TCRP Project Panel on Planning for the Future of Intermodal Passenger Facilities: Guide and Decision-Making Framework
- New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association Board Member (2005 – 2020)
- Southwest Transit Association Board Member (2011-2013)
- JARC-related work at NJTPA chosen for FTA Access-to-Jobs Planning Case Study (Sept. 2001) and USDOT Transportation and Environmental Justice Case Study on [Data Sources, GIS, Analytical Methods, and MPG Regional Coordination \(dot.gov\)](#) "Regional Job Access and Reverse Commute Planning-NJTPA and NJ Workfirst Program"