

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Seventy-Third Session
February 8, 2005**

The Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order at 1:43 p.m., on Tuesday, February 8, 2005. Chairman Richard Perkins presided in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Note: These minutes are compiled in the modified verbatim style. Bracketed material indicates language used to clarify and further describe testimony. Actions of the Committee are presented in the traditional legislative style.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Richard Perkins, Chairman
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Vice Chairman
Ms. Francis Allen
Mr. Bernie Anderson
Mr. Tom Grady
Mr. Lynn Hettrick
Mrs. Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Ms. Sheila Leslie
Mr. Harry Mortenson
Mr. David Parks
Ms. Peggy Pierce
Mr. Scott Sibley
Ms. Valerie Weber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Legislative Counsel
Susan Scholley, Principal Research Analyst
Russell Guindon, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Keith Norberg, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Gregory Sharpy, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Speaker Perkins:

I would like to call the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure to order. [Roll called.] Let me welcome the Committee and everybody in the audience to the first meeting of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee in 2005. Just by way of a little background, I am sure you are all aware that we do not create new committees very lightly. The idea that I came up with, particularly in the creation of a new committee, came from a number of discussions I had with people throughout this state and constituents during the last campaign and many of our members as we approach this legislative session.

If you would have asked me a year ago what I thought the largest issues were going to be in the 2005 Legislative Session, I would have told you it was most assuredly health care and education. However, in the past few months, I think growth issues have eclipsed many of those, although you could say that education and health care, themselves, have some growth components to them. Unfortunately, I think for this Committee over the course of the next few weeks, it is not going to be the Growth and Infrastructure Committee; it is going to be the Property Tax Committee. As we know, we have a very significant property tax crisis in our state that needs to be addressed in a fairly quick fashion. We will have an issue brief in a moment to talk about the jurisdiction of the Committee and some of the things that we will receive after we move on from the property tax discussion, but in general, we will talk about what is quality growth, and we will hear from many folks throughout our state on how they are dealing with growth.

There is no interest, on my part, to do any finger-pointing at local governments or any others in terms of are they properly managing growth—is it good growth, is it bad growth, or otherwise. We will have a lot of discussion about where we have come from and what brings us to the issues we face today. But surely, being the fastest-growing state in the country for many years and to continue

for many years, growth will be at the top of our discussions even beyond the 2005 Session.

For the next two weeks we will have discussions on property taxes. We will have a great deal of information provided to the Committee this afternoon. We will have the same type of discussion on Thursday from a different group of people. We will have joint hearings with the Senate, both Tuesday [and] Thursday this week and Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week. Next Friday, I want the Committee to be prepared to travel to Las Vegas in the afternoon and have a hearing down there at the Grant Sawyer Building. We will have a great deal of interest from southern Nevadans to address the Committee.

I would like to introduce our Vice Chairman, Ms. Giunchigliani, who is running from place to place all the time. She is going to be of great assistance to this Committee. Truth be known, she will probably be the brains of the Committee more often than not. She has a great deal of experience in this Legislature and in many of these growth issues.

We have a number of veteran legislators who are participating on this Committee. And just for the benefit of the audience, we go through a number of systems to create our Committee structures, and we request the interest of the legislators as to which committees they want to serve. I think when you look at the makeup of this Committee, most, if not all of them, chose to be on this Committee. It is a testament to them, but whether it is Mr. Anderson from Sparks, who has many years of experience in this Legislature, Ms. Leslie from the Reno area, Mr. Mortenson. Mr. Parks brings a great deal of local government experience and is the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee. Certainly, I am going to need him to guide me so that we are not stepping on the jurisdiction of the Government Affairs Committee that has a great deal of work to accomplish. Ms. Pierce, in her sophomore session. Mr. Grady, as well, comes to us from local government experience as the former mayor of Yerington, and his work in the League of Cities brings us a great deal of information. The Minority Leader has always been one that works very hard on these issues, so Mr. Hettrick will be a strong addition to the Committee. Also, Ms. Weber, from southern Nevada, I am sure, has heard from her constituents about growth on a regular basis, as have Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Ms. Allen, and Mr. Sibley.

Our Committee staff: The Committee Manager is Linda Utt. For the Committee members, if you need something from the Committee, Linda will be the person to arrange that for you. We have Jim Cassimus and Greg Sharry, and Casey Bales is the Assistant Committee Manager. From my office, Ethan, would you raise your hand as well? Ethan Guillen is from the Speaker's Office

and will be attending all of these meetings, trying to make me look a little better than I am normally looking.

Then we have Susan Scholley, Carol Stonefield, Russ Guindon, and Keith Norberg staffing the Committee from LCB [Legislative Counsel Bureau]. They bring a great deal of experience in their own right. When we need her, Brenda [Erdoes] is sitting at the far end of the table, because as we tread through many of these issues, there can be great deal of legal discussion as to whether or not what we are trying to do can be done, especially on the property tax area and the constitutional issues that we will face there.

With that, let me ask Susan [Scholley] to run through our Committee brief quickly, and as the Senators join us, we will move into the joint meeting. The Committee should have a copy of the posed Standing Rules ([Exhibit B](#)) in your folder. They should be fairly standard and boilerplate touch rules. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. If there are none, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the rules.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED TO ADOPT THE
STANDING RULES.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Speaker Perkins:

We have adopted the Standing Rules. Good afternoon.

Susan Scholley, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. [Introduced herself.] It is my pleasure to be staffing the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure for the Research Division with the assistance of Carol Stonefield, also from the Research Division. As the Chair mentioned, in matters relating to taxation, this Committee will also be staffed by Russell Guindon and Keith Norberg from the Fiscal Analysis Division of LCB.

Before I go any further, I want to remind the Committee that the Legislative Counsel Bureau is a nonpartisan bureau and the LCB staff is nonpartisan staff; therefore, we will neither advocate nor oppose legislation. Our role here is to assist the Committee in obtaining the information it needs in order to make the best decisions it can.

Turning to the Committee Policy Brief ([Exhibit C](#)), which you have before you on your table, it is a very brief "brief" since it is a new Committee. Starting on page 1, the Committee's jurisdiction; there are two chapters in Title 32 of the Revenue and Taxation title that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and measures affecting. Primarily, Chapter 361, Property Tax, and NRS 377B, Tax on Infrastructure, will be referred to this Committee. In addition, there is a very general grant of jurisdiction to all measures which primarily affect Growth and Infrastructure. As bills are introduced, those decisions will be made on what bills those are. We will look forward to seeing a wide variety of issues before the Committee.

Issues that I think the Committee can look forward to this session—the property tax relief issues, taxes pertaining to growth, proposed sales tax increase to employ and equip additional police officers in Clark County—will likely be referred to this Committee. Again, such bill drafts addressing planning and perhaps water supply and regulatory oversight as deemed appropriate. As we move on beyond the property tax relief issues, the Committee, as time allows, will be hearing presentations from a number of entities or organizations, which I have listed here.

Although I know you all have a copy of the deadline calendar, I would like to highlight just a few for you. Coming up next week on February 14, 2005, is the deadline for individual BDRs; on February 28, 2005, would be the deadline for Committee BDRs; and the April 15, 2005, deadline, in addition to being the day your taxes are due, is also the day that all bills must be out of Committee in the house of origin. Shortly after, on April 26, 2005, is the deadline for passage of Assembly bills out of the Assembly.

We have also included some key contact information on the last page for some state offices associations and planning entities that may come before the Committee. If you are looking for contact information and you do not see it here, please do not hesitate to contact any of the LCB staff, and we will be happy to get that information for you. With that, I want to conclude my presentation and emphasize that if we can be of any assistance to you, Research, Fiscal, or Legal, I am sure I can speak on behalf of Brenda also, please do not hesitate to ask. With that, I am happy to answer any questions.

Speaker Perkins:

Questions from the Committee? Thank you, Susan. Before we have the Senate join us for this joint hearing, there is also a place on our agenda for public comment before we get started. Is there any public comment in our first meeting? Not much to comment on yet. Seeing none, we will adjourn this Committee hearing and ask the Senate to join us. [Adjourned at 1:56 pm.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Gregory Sharry
Committee Attaché

APPROVED BY:

Speaker Richard Perkins, Chairman

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: x Growth and Infrastructure

Date: x Feb 8, 2005 **Time of Meeting:** x 1:30 pm

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