

What is the responsibility of government to provide a suitable infrastructure for personal mobility (transportation) and commerce? I can find no verbiage in the PR Constitution that speaks to this issue. In the US Constitution, there are clauses that address Federal programs being equal (or proportional) for each state, but I think we have to go back to the reasonableness argument for us, which is always tenuous.

In most countries, transportation infrastructure is provided primarily by the government and is designed to support the general welfare and commerce. Gasoline taxes, airport landing fees, etc. all go to help pay for the government investments in the required facilities, roads, bridges.... Most often, these taxes and fees are inadequate, so general funds are used to make up the differences. Given that tax payer money is utilized, citizens from all 78 municipalities can reasonably expect government infrastructure to support their access to government services, commerce, and other "pursuits of happiness" without discrimination. But, we all know that the San Juan government does not necessarily follow the letter of the law or the Constitution.

I would argue that our ferry is very much like Hwy 3 which carries us from Fajardo to Rio Piedras and other places. We pay nothing directly to use it. If we are in a hurry, we can fly at our own expense from VQS to Ceiba or SJU. Likewise, if we are driving, we can pay extra to use Hwy 66 if it suits us. My biggest complaint is that since the ferry service is so terribly inadequate, we should have the option to operate a private system as a supplement to the ATM, but they won't let us.

If Vieques or Culebra are too remote or too costly for the Commonwealth to support, how does one justify their paternal running of our lives? Are we a colony of San Juan? Should we be independent? We have no significant input into our own government and no control over our destiny. Is transportation a right or a privilege? According to our Constitution, it may be neither.