

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
March 28, 2011  
Senate and House Auditorium, Capitol Building  
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Representative Cliff Bayer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Jim Hammond, Elliot Werk, and Michelle Stennett and Representative Elaine Smith. Senator Dean Mortimer and Representatives Maxine Bell and Shirley Ringo were attending a Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee meeting, which was being held at the same time. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, director, Margaret Campbell, administrative coordinator, and other OPE staff.

Representative Bayer welcomed the audience and acknowledged the following attendees:  
Representative Bill Killen  
Chairman Darrell Manning, Idaho Transportation Board  
Director Brian Ness, Idaho Transportation Department

Representative Bayer announced that topic selection, originally scheduled for discussion at this meeting, would occur at a later date.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Senator Hammond moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011, meeting. Senator Werk seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from five members present.**

**FOLLOW-UP REPORT RELEASE: *IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT***

**Senator Werk moved to receive the follow-up report *Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit*. Senator Hammond seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from five members present.**

*Senator Stennett and Representative Smith left during the presentation to attend their respective state affairs committee meetings.*

Mr. Mohan thanked the board and the department. He also thanked the Lieutenant Governor, the current and former chairs of the Senate and House Transportation committees, Senator Shawn Keough, Representatives Marv Hagedorn and Bill Killen, and Lance Holmstrom of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, for their input and cooperation during the follow-up review. He introduced consultants James Brock from Avant Infrastructure Management Consulting in Pennsylvania and Robert Thomas from Robert C. Thomas & Associates in Washington, as well as Lance McCleve from the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE). Mr. Brock summarized the findings of the follow-up report.

Senator Hammond said that OPE would be presenting in the Senate Transportation Committee this week and he would save his questions for that time. Senator Werk asked whether the decrease in turnover was related to the economy. Mr. Brock said he presumed that the economy played a factor, but the department had also made great efforts with its management development program.

Senator Werk asked about the timeliness of an evaluation of local highway districts. Mr. Brock said he saw no harm conducting an evaluation while districts received training in the use of funds. By conducting an evaluation, the Legislature could receive information on whether the criteria used to justify funding aligned with the benefits achieved.

Representative Bayer asked about the status of funding for preservation and maintenance. Mr. Brock said the Governor's taskforce was reviewing this issue and making decisions on alternative funding. Representative Bayer also asked about GARVEE. Mr. Thomas said the last increment of GARVEE was approved by the Legislature for \$162 million. He strongly emphasized that the state put maintenance and preservation first, and said the department's policy documents also support this approach.

Representative Bayer called on Darrell Manning, chairman of the Idaho Transportation Board, to address the committee. Mr. Manning said the results of the audit were helpful in many ways. Most importantly, the audit confirmed issues that needed to be addressed. He said he wanted to involve stakeholders in department goals and objectives as a tool for problem resolution. He discussed recommendations that were still being implemented and indicated that some would take time.

Senator Werk said he had been in the Legislature for more than eight years and had never seen an evaluation where the department and the Legislature had embraced the recommendations so fully. He considered the audit a great success for OPE, the department, and the Legislature.

Representative Bayer called on Brian Ness, director of the Idaho Transportation Department, to address the committee. Mr. Ness said he was pleased with the findings of the follow-up review. He thanked the Oversight Committee and the Legislature for their support. He thanked OPE, Mr. Brock, and Mr. Thomas for making the follow-up review painless. He thanked department staff for their hard work, particularly the diligent efforts of Deputy Director Scott Stokes. Mr. Ness said his goal for the department was to be the best transportation department in the country and the audit helped in achieving that goal.

Representative Bayer announced that the next meeting of the Oversight Committee was Tuesday, March 29, at 8:00 a.m.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.*