

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
March 20, 2007  
Gold Room, State Capitol  
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Margaret Henbest called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Shawn Keough, Elliot Werk, and John McGee, and Representatives Maxine Bell, Donna Boe, and Clifford Bayer. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, Director, Margaret Campbell, Administrative Coordinator, and all other OPE staff.

Co-chair Henbest welcomed those in attendance, including:

Representatives: Ken Andrus, Phylis King, Dean Mortimer, Jim Patrick, and JoAn Wood  
Office of the Governor: Karen McGee  
Division of Financial Management: Dawn Hall  
Idaho Transportation Department: Pamela Lowe  
State Board of Education: Dwight Johnson  
State Department of Education: Gary Lough

#### **MINUTES**

**Senator Werk moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2007, meeting. Representative Boe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON AN EVALUATION OF THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Mohan reviewed information on transportation performance evaluations in other states. He said the impact of these evaluations was hard to define and hard to measure. Evaluations did not always look for cost savings, but rather considered the department's ability to manage projects.

Co-chair Henbest called on Representative JoAn Wood, House Transportation Committee Chair, to address the committee. Representative Wood said she had developed a list of six issues she would like an evaluation to address and thought these issues could interface with a list Senator McGee had developed. She said she was interested in a scope that looked both at management and "lay of the land."

Senator McGee discussed his proposed list of issues and indicated how the committee could combine the two lists for a scope that examined management and "lay of the land." He suggested looking at issues of (1) accountability and the decision making process, (2) the road building process, and (3) the GARVEE bond project.

Senator Werk said he would like the evaluation to make a reasonable judgment about the need for ongoing revenue. Mr. Mohan said a high level review may not provide enough information for a judgment; however, it could provide useful information for legislative decisions.

Committee members discussed the scope and agreed that a high level review addressing the broader points of the two lists would be an appropriate scope. After the report was released, the committee could consider further evaluations. They discussed whether \$100,000 would cover the costs of an evaluation. Mr. Mohan said he could not say whether that amount would be enough, given the technical nature of the study.

Senator Keough said that if the committee decided to move forward with this evaluation, she and Representative Henbest would need to defend the appropriation in JFAC. She said she would be reluctant to do that if the committee could not clearly identify and defend the cost of the appropriation request.

Representative Bell said she did not want to raise gas taxes, and she wanted to be sure the department was doing everything it needed to be efficient. She asked if it was possible to start the study with \$100,000 in fiscal year 2007, have OPE provide a detailed scope to the committee in a June meeting, and then have JLOC go to the budget committee for a supplemental in January 2008. Mr. Mohan said he would be comfortable with that approach.

**Senator Werk moved to have OPE scope a study of management and processes in the Idaho Transportation Department and present it to JLOC in June, and JLOC would request a fiscal year 2007 appropriation of \$100,000 to get OPE started on the project. Representative Boe seconded the motion.**

Representative Bell indicated that OPE should work with Representative Wood in developing a detailed scope. Co-chair Keough asked what JLOC wanted to do if the budget committee denied the request. Senator Werk suggested that if funding was denied, the request should be placed on hold for future consideration.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote to draft a scope for an evaluation of the Idaho Transportation Department and request \$100,000 in funds.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.