

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2012

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: WW02 - Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Ellsworth, Representative(s) Wood(35), Smith(24), Bedke, Wills, Hart, Nonini, Hagedorn (Tucker), Bateman, Henderson, Nessel, Ringo, King, Killen
Chairman Hammond, Vice Chairman Brackett, Senators Keough, McGee, Corder, Winder, Bair, Werk, Bilyeu

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Wills, Nonini, Hagedorn

GUESTS: Darrell Manning, Idaho Transportation Board, Brian Ness, Scott Stokes, and Mollie McCarty, Idaho Transportation Department, (ITD), Kim Toryanski, Vicki Tokita, Department of Human Resources, Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca, Zach Haug, Capital West, Dave Carlson, AAA Idaho, Ben Richner, and Robyn Lockett, Legislative Services Office, (LSO) Matt Kaiserman, Gallatin, Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, Teronda Robinson, Developmental Disabilities Council, (DDC)

Co-Chairman Hammond called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

Co-Chairman Hammond introduced **Darrell Manning**, Idaho Transportation Board Chairman.

Darrell Manning began by thanking the legislators for all they do for people of Idaho. This was his last official duty as Chairman of the ITD Board, and he announced the appointment of **Jerry Whitehead** as the new Board Chairman. He praised the ITD Board for setting budgets and direction for ITD. There were two major studies this year of citizens and investments. ITD developed a pavement management system which is up and running. An audit found that starting salaries for Idaho transportation technicians were shamefully low. The stimulus projects and GARVEE projects are nearly complete. This is a benefit to the people of Idaho. Mr. Manning also said that major changes at ITD have been embraced by the employees.

Co-Chairman Hammond thanked former **Adjutant General, Darrell Manning** for his service.

Director Ness, ITD, thanked all the committee members for their help with transportation issues this year. Director Ness began by saying, ITD will discuss the Department's new direction, how to attain this goal, and how progress will be measured. Last year the Department focused on 5 areas: (1) realignment; (2) investing in performance; (3) performance measures; (4) accountability, efficiency and effectiveness; and (5) individual performance management. The Governor's realignment was completed in eight months. The Department reduced nine layers of management to five; eliminated 62 one-on-one supervisory positions; and had less duplication between districts and headquarters. No employees lost their jobs, yet ITD saw a total savings of \$3.5 million. ITD is looking at "Investing For Performance" to maximize investment dollars. Management is holding the employees accountable for the departments priorities. ITD invested in the Transportation Asset Management System which launched on time and on budget; it determines the most cost effective pavement investments and tracks

and manages maintenance activities. It was used in 2011 to select pavement preservation projects. ITD is also looking at a 50-Year Plan which ensures that good decisions are made now for the future. The Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget Request is \$584 million, with \$0 requested for GARVEE Bonds. The ITD website has a pie chart which shows how FY13 budget will be proportioned.

Scott Stokes, ITD Chief Deputy, discussed the Performance Measure Status which is reported on ITD's Dashboard website, so the public can see how ITD does compared to other states. One area that is important to note for the future is that today Idaho has 13% deficient pavement; but 28% deficiency in pavement is predicted in 2021. ITD is going to have to address pavement foundations. Also, Idaho's bridges, built prior to 1962, are over 50 years old. In 2021 Idaho will have over 1000 bridges over 70 years old. ITD may need to pull some money away from pavement to put toward reconstruction of bridges. The Governor's Task Force members confirmed Idaho's real and significant transportation funding shortfall of \$543 million.

Director Ness continued with ITD's New Mission Statement: "Your Safety, Your Mobility and Your Economic Opportunity." With that mission statement for 2012, there are three goals: (1.) become the best organization by continually developing employees and implementing innovative business practices; (2.) commit to having the safest transportation system possible; and (3.) provide a mobility-focused transportation system that drives economic opportunity. The first goal of becoming the best organization means to develop the best employees and the best practices. To do this, the Department needs to reduce turnover rates. Even in a slow economy ITD has fifty percent (50%) employee turnover, therefore, ITD must invest in our employees and in compensation. The second goal of "committing to safety" will see ITD focus on reduction in fatalities, serious injuries, and injuries related to impaired driving. The third goal is mobility and economic opportunity, which is measured by increased efficiency in transporting goods; as well as reduction in travel time for commuting, commerce, recreation, and tourism. This also involves an increase in Idaho's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with more jobs and business revenues. Travel time reductions will benefit tourism and recreation industries; travel time reliability is valued by the public, shorter shipping times will lower the cost of goods and lower cost goods will make Idaho more competitive. ITD will also study ways to improve Idaho's shipping efficiency. To do this ITD partners with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor along with private industry. This plan is about action, outcome and accountability. Our leadership team developed measurable strategies and looked at those goals to see that nothing is missed. ITD's goal is that every employee will have a new performance plan at the beginning of the fiscal year, measuring performance that will relate directly to the Department's goals.

In answer to a question about why Michigan's Governor is requesting more revenue now for transportation, **Director Ness** said Michigan's governor wants to raise revenue to do preventative measures so that in the future they won't have to completely rebuild the roads. Putting more money into preventative fixes now will also be cost effective for Idaho.

The committee asked a question about Idaho's out-of-date rail plan and how ITD plans to address the plan. **Scott Stokes** ITD Chief Deputy, explained that ITD's focus has been pavement and bridges, with a lack of focus on other modes like rail. They believe the one percent (1%) funds being transferred to ITD will be sufficient to complete the new plan and the 3 to 5 year interval is the correct time interval for revisiting their needs. Mr. Stokes also stated they will look at aeronautics, rail, pedestrian and bike plans. The source of funding for these plans comes from the most restricted ITD funds not from shifting internal budgets.

When a question was asked about the study of 129,000 lb. trucks using the roadways when there are other trucks of that weight not permitted on the same roadways. **Scott Stokes** said ITD is studying what the traffic is in and out of waste energy sites. They will look at incoming lanes rather than outgoing lanes. ITD hopes to have this study completed by November or December of this year. In answer to a question about Idaho receiving railroad funds, ITD explained that Idaho gets \$200,000 from Federal Rail Act and so, to the degree that the railroads contribute, Idaho benefits.

In answer to the investigation of the Highway 95 collapse last year, **Director Ness** said he has not received the final results, but the major contributing factor was heavy tourism on that road and waiting until that traffic had subsided before working on that stretch of road. Also, the weather was a factor.

When asked what federal dollars contributed to Idaho jobs, **Director Ness** said he does not know how many jobs were created with the \$300,00 in Federal funds but the \$800,000 in GARVEE funds created 13,000 jobs last year.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 P.M.

Representative Palmer
Co- Chair

Jane Clark
Secretary