

MINUTES  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 09, 2014

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Johnson, Senators Keough, Winder, Nonini(Nonini), Hagedorn, Bock and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Rice

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Brackett** called the first meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:35 p.m., and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** With a quorum present, **Chairman Brackett** began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking each member and staff present to introduce themselves for the benefit of Senator Cathyanne Nonini. She is replacing Senator Bob Nonini as he recovers from an illness. **Chairman Brackett** then introduced the Committee's Senate Page, **Samantha Clay** of Eagle, who said she will be with the Committee for the first half of the legislative session. **Ms. Clay** shared that she is a senior at Eagle High School and plans to attend either the University of Arizona or Brigham Young University following high school graduation. She wants to study either speech pathology or government. She is glad to be assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES:** **Chairman Brackett** asked Vice Chairman Johnson to discuss the process for reviewing transportation administrative rules. **Vice Chairman Johnson** told the Committee they would be reviewing eleven pending rules at the Tuesday, January 14 meeting of the Committee. There is one Idaho State Tax Commission (ISTC) pending rule and ten Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) pending rules. **Vice Chairman Johnson** asked for volunteers to review each docket before the January 14 meeting; and offered each an opportunity to receive a paper copy of the dockets, or they could view the rules online.

The following docket assignments were made by **Vice Chairman Johnson**: Senator Hagedorn will review docket 35-0105-1301; Senator Buckner-Webb will review dockets 39-0260-1301 and 39-0271-1301; Vice Chairman Johnson and Senator Keough will review dockets 39-0312-1301, 39-0315-1301, 39-0322-1301, 39-0322-1302 and 39-0323-1301; Senator Nonini will review docket 39-0350-1301; and Senator Winder will review dockets 39-0402-1301 and 39-0404-1301.

**Chairman Brackett** thanked the Vice Chairman for taking on this responsibility. **Chairman Brackett** further explained that in the Committee's packets was a list of ITD staff who would present each docket. These individuals could be contacted to answer any questions regarding the Committee members' assigned dockets.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Wayne Hammon, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of General Contractors, to the Committee and asked him to take the podium. Before beginning his presentation, **Mr. Hammon** explained that the Idaho Transportation Coalition is a working group of organizations and individuals committed to supporting the maintenance and growth of Idaho's system of roads and bridges. In conjunction with the Senate and House Transportation Committee Chairs, the working group devised a plan to present updates on transportation issues at Committee meetings. A tentative list of topics and presenters was included in the Committee's packets. Each presentation will last no longer than ten minutes, including time for questions. **Mr. Hammon** said that today's topic was bridges, and referenced the copy of his presentation slides in each Committee members' packet.

**Mr. Hammon** stated that the average age of a replaced bridge in Idaho is 59 years. Over the past three years, the state has replaced 8 to 12 bridges per year. There are about 397 Idaho bridges in need of replacement. At the current rate of replacement, it would take 100 years to replace them all.

Every community has a bridge in need of repair or improvement. The concern is not that the bridges will fall down, it is ensuring that they are structurally sound to accommodate the needs of their communities. Maintenance is critical if bridges are to last well into the future. ITD has been strategic and smart with its spending. Aging bridges have been replaced with modern, safe alternatives; and work has been done to keep load limits from having to be decreased.

Functionally deficient bridges are a bigger problem than the already identified decaying ones. As bridges age, load limits are decreased, which impacts commerce. Without safe bridges to keep transportation running smoothly, trucks are forced to go miles out of their way. Detours cost both time and money, and not having adequate access is detrimental to small, rural communities and their residents' livelihoods is directly impacted.

Improving bridges helps people and towns connect in ways that would otherwise not happen. Bridges are critical connections within the statewide transportation system. When bridges are healthy, the system is healthy. Idaho can be a leader in the transportation industry as it moves toward heavier loads and bigger trucks. With safe, strong bridges, Idaho can attract more commerce and keep our communities connected. **Mr. Hammon** thanked the Committee and stood for questions.

**Senator Nonini** asked Mr. Hammon to identify the bridges depicted in his presentation. **Mr. Hammon** listed them as located in Loman, Twin Falls, Riggins, Dover and Boise.

**Senator Hagedorn** asked if there was an economic impact study done prior and since the bridge in Dover, Idaho had its weight restructuring work done. **Mr. Hammon** said he was not aware of any study, but knew others in the audience could address that question following the Committee meeting.

**Senator Winder** asked for the internet address for the Idaho Transportation Coalition. **Mr. Hammon** gave that address as: [www.idahotransportationcoalition.com](http://www.idahotransportationcoalition.com).

**Vice Chairman Johnson** asked if the average replacement of bridges stated as 59 years was also the average age of bridges in Idaho. **Mr. Hammon** said that was not the case. **Vice Chairman Johnson** asked for clarification about maintaining bridges in small, rural communities. **Mr. Hammon** said that Idaho has many highway jurisdictions that have ownership over Idaho's bridges. ITD collects that information for the state, and the Idaho Association of Highway Districts will address local roads at a future Committee meeting. **Vice Chairman Johnson** asked for examples of the work performed by ITD on Idaho bridges to maintain heavier loads. **Mr. Hammon** said that Dave Butzier of URS Corporation will address the topic of the life-span of a bridge and what happens when bridges are and are not maintained at a future Committee meeting. There were no further questions.

**ADJOURNED:**

**Chairman Brackett** thanked Mr. Hammon and said he was looking forward to future presentations. **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

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Senator Brackett  
Chairman

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Gaye Bennett  
Secretary