

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING

**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium (WW02)

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Wood(35), Wills, Bateman, Henderson, Denney, Gestrin, Gibbs, Hixon, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Ringo, King, Gannon

Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Johnson, Senators Keough, Winder, Rice, Nonini, Hagedorn, Bock, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Sen. Winder, Sen. Buckner-Webb

GUESTS: Kathy Martin, LCSC; Kristin Kemak, Lewis Clark Valley Chamber; Raeveen Welton, RMP; Lyn Darrington, State Farm Insurance Companies; Ken Burgess, Veritas Advisors; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Jack Renault, Self; Julie Pipal, Idaho Trucking Assoc.; Dave Butzier, ACEC of ID; Dave Carlson, AAA Idaho; Parker Papworth, Lobby Idaho, Laura Lantz, IAHD

Chairman Brackett called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Rep. Hixon welcomed the students from Syringa Middle School, Caldwell, that were in the auditorium and invited them to stay and listen to the presentation.

Brian Ness, Director of Idaho Transportation Department (ITD,) presented the annual report for the department. Director Ness introduced the executive team: **Jim Carpenter**, Chief Operations Officer, **Charlene McArthur**, Chief Administrative Officer, **Brenda Williams**, Chief Human Resources Officer, and **Scott Stokes**, Chief Deputy.

Director Ness' presentation was in three parts: A brief overview of the Governor's Budget Recommendation; a report on the structural and cultural changes occurring at the department and how they are driving a more effective and efficient agency, and what the department will focus on in 2014.

Director Ness stated that ITD receives funding from three different sources: state funds, federal funds, and other means that include local matching funds. He stated the department receives no revenue from the General Fund. He felt there should be concern regarding the fifty-five percent of ITD's revenue from federal funding continuing at its current level of state funding.

Because of the possible reduction in federal funding and the loss of employees by attrition, it was timely to dramatically change the culture of the department and organizational realignment, said **Director Ness**. ITD now values results and employees have been made accountable for the results they achieve. He stated the realignment has increased the span of control for supervisors from an average of three employees up to ten employees.

The Director also stated the department has implemented a department-wide strategic plan. The department has adopted the mission of safety, mobility, and economic opportunity. He stated they are carefully targeting available funding to

accomplish the department's mission and the goals of **Governor Otter's** Project 60 initiative – to grow the state's economy to more than \$60 billion annually. **Director Ness** explained their stated goals are supported by measurable performance indicators. Every person at ITD has performance goals that are directly tied to the strategic plan.

Director Ness spoke to the three areas of the strategic plan, safety, mobility, and economic opportunity. The department has launched a safety program called Positive Community Norms which engages bystanders to intervene when witnessing impaired driving. He presented the Highway Safety Corridor Analysis Tool to the Committees to improve the way ITD prioritizes safety projects in transportation corridors. Director Ness summarized the mobility portion of the plan which has eased driving through construction zones. He further explained the mission addresses economic opportunity. The department is working closely with the Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture to develop tools to measure and maximize the impacts of investments made by ITD in infrastructure.

Director Ness remarked that ITD has many accomplishments in 2013 and received national recognition. ITD's Winter Performance Measuring System received the Francis B. Fankoy Award for Innovation; the department also received two National Roadway Safety Awards from the Federal Highway Administration. He states that 2014 will be even better.

Director Ness shared that ITD's project delivery and cash flow will be another focus for 2014. He explained that workforce planning is needed because over the next five years, 50 percent of the department's employees will be eligible for retirement. The benefits of investing in transportation, was further explained by Director Ness. Maintenance has been the key to keeping Idaho's road system stable; however, Director Ness sees the need to look at replacing the bridges in the state. These bridges are an impediment to the state's economy, said Director Ness. He stated the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials found that for every dollar invested now in maintaining good infrastructure, the state avoids spending \$6 to \$14 to repair or replace infrastructure in bad condition.

Director Ness concluded by stating the transportation system is the engine of Idaho's economy, and it is our job to keep that engine running smoothly.

Chairman Brackett formally welcomed **Rep. Frank Henderson** back to the committee.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Linda Mott
Secretary