

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Nonini, Senators Keough, Winder, Hagedorn, Den Hartog, Lodge, Harris, and Buckner-Webb

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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** convened the first meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: **Chairman Brackett** then asked the new members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Senator Harris thanked Chairman Brackett and said he represented Legislative District 32 that includes the counties of Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Teton. **Senator Harris** continued by saying he was excited to be on the Committee where he hopes to achieve many things.

Senator Lodge thanked the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) staff members she had met prior to the Committee convening for the work ITD has done on the freeway from Caldwell to Boise. She said she was looking forward to working with ITD and others to try to alleviate some of highway concerns.

Chairman Brackett welcomed the Committee's Page, Tess Jensen, a senior at Caldwell High School. He commented that Ms. Jensen commutes from Caldwell each day by utilizing public transportation.

Ms. Jensen thanked Chairman Brackett and stated that she was a senior at Caldwell High School. She was already accepted at BYU-Idaho where she is planning on majoring in International Studies. **Ms. Jensen** said she felt honored to be selected to serve as a Senate Page. **Ms. Jensen** concluded by stating she was happy to be assigned to the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: **Chairman Brackett** explained that oversight of the Committee's Administrative Rules would be undertaken by Vice Chairman Nonini and asked Vice Chairman Nonini to explain the Committee's rule review process.

Vice Chairman Nonini thanked the Chairman and stated that each Committee member had a copy of the 11 transportation related Administrative Rules. There were three Idaho State Police (ISP) rules, two State Tax Commission rules, and six ITD rules. **Vice Chairman Nonini** continued that he, Senator Den Hartog, and Senator Harris had met with the State Tax Commission and they were satisfied with the explanatory discussion that ensued.

The goal of the Committee is to complete the review process by January 31. With that in mind, **Vice Chairman Nonini** said the Committee would take up the ISP rules at the next Committee hearing. The remaining ITD rules would be considered on January 31. **Vice Chairman Nonini** concluded by thanking Senators Den Hartog and Harris for their help, and he stood for questions. There were no Committee questions regarding the Administrative Rules process.

**REPORT
DISTRIBUTION:**

Chairman Brackett welcomed Vince Trimboli, Manager of ITD's Office of Communications, and asked him to present the Department of Motor Vehicle's (DMV) annual legislative report.

Mr. Trimboli said the first item was the new look of Idaho's driver's license. It alone has cut out about 90 percent of the paperwork required of the previous process. This should not be confused with the future issuance of Real ID cards. ITD has received a one-year extension for Real ID that will get them through October of this year. ITD will need one more extension in order to complete all their requirements. They hope to be fully compliant by the beginning of next year.

Mr. Trimboli continued with a concern legislators had in the past regarding retiring the mainframe. It was originally planned to be done by 2020, but because of significant changes at DMV they can move up the date to 2018. DMV as a whole has reorganized the way they do business. One major change has been in technology where instead of developing software to provide a specific function, they can now take off-the-shelf software products and customize them to fulfill their business needs.

DMV recognizes they need to establish better relationships with county assessors and sheriffs who are the front-line people they work with in order to better deliver their services to the citizens of Idaho. DMV has convened a County Engagement Team (CET) as a primary communications group. It is comprised of four assessors and four sheriffs as a sounding board to determine the best way to roll-out all of DMV's new products outlined in the report that are going to be coming online in the next several years. It is not just about retiring the mainframe but DMV is always going to be using new technology in order to give better customer service. The CET is a long-term group whose membership will change through a rotation process; he is currently a member of the team indicating the importance of communications.

DMV's accomplishments of the last year include: (1) streamlining the processing of credit card transactions; (2) making better sense of their data so that it can be used better in everyday practices; and (3) continuing to add weigh-in options across the state that recognize economic opportunities.

Chairman Brackett thanked Mr. Trimboli and asked about needing one more extension for Real ID. He wanted to know what was left to complete in order for Idaho to be Real ID compliant. **Mr. Trimboli** said he was not fully aware of all the details, but he did know that ITD needs to be able to issue a complete report to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that includes all the security enhancements required. **Mr. Trimboli** said that was the very last requirement; there were a couple of others that he would provide to the Committee members when he returns to ITD. **Chairman Brackett** followed-up with whether ITD anticipated any changes with regard to Real ID given the change of administrations. **Mr. Trimboli** replied that they don't anticipate changes. Receiving the extension this year was easy and they expect the same to be the case with the next extension. ITD anticipates issuing Real IDs in 2018.

Senator Hagedorn asked where DMV stands with issuing license plates to trailers. For example, how many have been issued, what is the total revenue that has been generated, and what are ITD's activities in advertising that information? **Mr. Trimboli** said he would have to get back to Senator Hagedorn and the other Committee members with that information.

**UPDATE ON
PROJECT:**

Chairman Brackett welcomed Ken Burgess, a partner in Veritas Advisors, a government affairs company in Boise, and asked him to report on the completion of the Main Street Station public transportation hub in downtown Boise.

Mr. Burgess began by extending an invitation to tour this new facility following ITD's annual report at a Joint Committee Meeting of the Transportation Committees on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. A bus will be waiting to take all members to the facility and return them to the Capitol steps. The invitation was being offered through one of his clients, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS). COMPASS is an association of local governments working together to plan for the future of Idaho's Treasure Valley; it is the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Ada and Canyon counties. MPOs are organized to make sure road building authorities in a region work together on a long-range plan to understand which projects need to be built within their jurisdiction. It is a federal designation given to an area that reaches a population of 50,000 people. **Mr. Burgess** listed the MPOs in Idaho and said that Twin Falls may soon be designated as an MPO. He said he would be happy to provide any information or answer questions about MPOs.

One of the members of the COMPASS board is Valley Regional Transit which is the public transportation system in the Treasure Valley. The Main Street Station is the multi-modal center that has been built in the basement of the new Gardner Building on the corner of 8th and Main Streets in Boise. This project has taken many years because there were issues with all five suggested locations around the city.

The project was a result of a 2005 Congressional earmark that had to be extended to accommodate the timeframe of finding the right location. Its eventual location was the result of a public/private partnership that allowed the station to locate in the Gardner Building. **Mr. Burgess** concluded his remarks by saying the design has been given awards around the region.

ADJOURNED:

With no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary