

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium WW2

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Gestrin, Kauffman, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Ricks, Wintrow, Gannon, Davis, Rubel
Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Lodge, Rice, Burtenshaw, Buckner-Webb, Nelson

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Holtzclaw, Rubel; Senator Rice

GUESTS: Mathew Conde, AAA; Savannah Renslow, IAHD; Trevor Butler, Taylor & Company; Shawn Keough, Assoc Logging Cont.

Chairman Brackett called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Chairman Brackett introduced **Brian Ness**, Director of the Idaho Transportation Department.

Mr. Ness presented the annual report of the Idaho Transportation Department. He said ITD's key success factors are a streamlined organizational structure, a strong culture of innovation and focus on customer needs. The US Census Bureau estimates Idaho is the fastest growing state by population, so transportation needs are expanding rapidly. The Department is facilitating commerce by prioritizing the economic impact of road and bridge projects. The Director said by 2021 half of ITD's bridges will be beyond their design life of 50 to 60 years.

Mr. Ness deferred to **Molly McCarty**, Governmental Affairs Manager, to talk about a pilot project with Washington to consider a road usage charge in Idaho. Participating drivers track their miles traveled and either pay the fuel tax or pay a usage fee by mileage. The results of the pilot project will be included in an ITD report next year when the project is finished.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Ness** said ITD needs to do a better job of contracting and use of third party vendors. The Department has begun an aggressive campaign to stay ahead of the rush when drivers are required to purchase their new STAR card in 2020. When asked about the use of salt on the highways, he commented the Department has to balance the safety of lives, the environment and chemical use. They are looking at chemicals other than salt for winter maintenance because salt usage causes damage to roads and vehicles.

Chairman Brackett thanked **Brian Ness** and ITD then recognized **Jerry Whitehead**, Transportation Board Chairman.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary