

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 06, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Lodge, Rice, Burtenshaw, Buckner-Webb, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Winder

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: With a quorum present, **Chairman Brackett** convened the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:34 p.m.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **RS 27591**, **RS 27589C1**, and **RS 27648** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

HCR 25 **Senator Lodge** presented **HCR 25**, a resolution to maintain the historical significance of Chicken Dinner Road in Canyon County. She expressed her surprise with the outcry of support for this 20-mile stretch of road, and added that the community is proud of the history around the naming of the road. With that, she played a video explaining how Chicken Dinner Road got its name as presented by Mary Alger, owner of Huston Vineyards located on Chicken Dinner Road near Highway 55 in Canyon County (see attachment 1).

Following the video, **Senator Lodge** said her co-sponsor in the House was **Representative Scott Syme**, District 11, who shared the reason for this resolution. There was an effort by a well-known, national non-profit organization seeking to change the name of the road to Chicken Road in deference to the suffering of chickens who are found on many dinner tables in America. He ended by stating that the group's request was due to a lack of local historical significance or understanding. Therefore, he and Senator Lodge had proudly brought this concurrent resolution to the Legislature.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **HCR 25** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Lodge will carry the resolution on the Senate floor.

S 1276 **Lance Giles**, representing Idaho Walk/Bike Alliance, presented **S 1276**, a bill that establishes a Children's Walking and Biking Infrastructure Program. **Mr. Giles** said that at its core, **S 1276** makes it safer for children to walk and bike to schools, libraries, and parks. It proactively creates a process to distribute funds to build sidewalks and crosswalks. This is important because state funding for sidewalks and crosswalks was not available every year. It establishes up-front criteria and distributes funding via a competitive grant program. This bill is needed because there are too many crashes between motor vehicles and Idaho children.

Mr. Giles continued by stating that **S 1276** requires the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to establish and maintain a Children's Walking and Biking Infrastructure Program along with an account to deposit future funds. It also requires the program to distribute funds via a competitive grant program administered by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) in which all local units of government and ITD's six transportation districts could apply. There are four criteria for application evaluation: 1.) safety; 2.) mobility; 3.) proximity to a school, park, or library; and 4.) project readiness. The bill does not grow government, add regulations, or mandate state funding. **Mr. Giles** concluded by listing agencies and non-profits supporting the bill.

DISCUSSION:

Senators Burtenshaw, Rice, and Den Hartog questioned why this bill creates a new program when there were existing programs performing similar purposes. Given no funding is directly allocated into this new program, they suggested the bill was a preconceived notion that only adds statutes to Idaho Code brought at a time that the Governor had implemented two executive orders in an attempt to reduce government red tape. **Mr. Giles, Mollie McCarty** of ITD, and **Laila Kral** of LHTAC responded to their concerns explaining that this program could receive private funds in addition to state funds, and the previous program referred to had expired. Plus, the demand for funding of smaller projects like these were always greater than available funds.

Chairman Brackett asked how many applications had been received for the previous program associated with the surplus eliminator. **Mr. Giles** said that in 2018 there were 70 applications statewide requesting \$12 million; in 2019 it was even greater.

TESTIMONY:

Ken Burgess, representing the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), said their board supports bicycle and residential safety projects. He indicated there may be a House bill that could provide funding for the process that **S 1276** puts in place. He added that in new subdivisions there was more thought going into sidewalks and pathways. In response to an inquiry from Senator Den Hartog, **Mr. Burgess** said that the federal Safe Routes to School Program no longer exists.

MOTION:

Senator Nelson moved to send **S 1276** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. .

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Unable to discern the majority in a voice vote, **Chairman Brackett** called for a roll call vote. **Chairman Brackett, Senators Burtenshaw and Nelson** voted aye. **Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Lodge, and Rice** voted nay. The motion failed.

ADJOURNED:

With no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary