

MINUTES  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 02, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Den Hartog, Vice Chairman Woodward, Senators Winder, Lodge, Rice, Vick, Crabtree, Nelson, and Wintrow

**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:** **Chair Den Hartog** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Crabtree** moved to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2021. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Mollie McCarty**, Governmental Affairs Manager, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), presented its supplemental budget. She updated the Committee on bid-ready projects that will help the department update various transportation systems. The benefits will be long term with improvements to safety, work, and recreation. It will also support Idaho's economy. ITD has worked to accelerate project development and engineering to ensure they are available ahead of schedule. She clarified the monies will be a reinvestment of spending reductions that Governor Brad Little made over the past year. She reminded the Committee they are both State and Federal monies, that they are one-time funds. She outlined ITD's five state supplementals for fiscal year 2021. The federal monies contributed to December's omnibus COVID-19 relief act. She closed by noting how critical the projects are for citizens and she thanked the Committee for its continued support.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Winder** asked if the department has the ability to spend the money within the next 12 months. **Mrs. McCarty** clarified the most expeditious way to spend the money will be for ITD to distribute monies into the community through contracts. She also acknowledged the payout of contracts will take some time to accomplish.

**Senator Rice** questioned if the supplemental budget enabled the department to move up projects that were previously unfunded. **Mrs. McCarty** affirmed the funding helps move smaller project timelines forward. She noted it is still difficult to fund large projects from one source of funding, but incorporation of additional funding sources may help to move up larger projects.

**Senator Winder** asked if ITD had looked at its priority list of projects and where the issue in Senator Rice's area was on that list. **Mrs. McCarty** clarified the project in Senator Rice's area would most likely benefit from a bonding program to secure funding.

**Senator Lodge** questioned if there are any requirements for new subdivisions to support roadway development in their area of impact. **Mrs. McCarty** explained there is a process where ITD supports the subdivision developers complete a traffic study to determine if and what alterations should be completed.

**Senator Lodge** requested clarification on whose responsibility it is to complete work on rough railroad crossings. **Mrs. McCarty** explained it is the responsibility of each jurisdiction to complete repairs on crossings within its area of responsibility.

**Senator Nelson** expressed concerns regarding one of the projects in his district that has not been funded. He then asked if ITD has been able to support pedestrian safety projects within the State. **Mrs. McCarty** described the difficulties of living in a rural state without ample crossings and affirmed the department's concern with pedestrian fatalities. She detailed the department's efforts to leverage partners and opportunities in order to make significant safety improvements in problem areas. She also clarified the department enjoys collaborating with the community to accomplish requests, traffic enhancements, or strategic planning for larger projects.

**Senator Nelson** requested clarification regarding where the money for state programs comes from. **Mrs. McCarty** explained the money comes from holdbacks that were executed last year and specified all the holdbacks are included in the current supplemental. She then deferred to David Hahn for specification on the holdbacks. **David Hahn**, Financial Management Analyst, Budget Bureau, clarified the holdback is temporary and it is within the Legislature's jurisdiction to make the holdback permanent or not.

**Senator Woodward** asked if it is possible to identify the source of various monies in the General Fund since there are notable surpluses this fiscal year. **Mr. Hahn** affirmed the holdback was only one component of the reinvested monies in ITD's supplemental budget.

**Chair Den Hartog** questioned if there was a timeline or restrictions on the expenditure of the federal funds contributed to the supplemental budget. **Mrs. McCarty** specified there is a four-year period in which the State is obligated to pay out the projects. She further explained there are no other specific restrictions for the funds, they are intended to be put toward general roadway improvements.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chair Den Hartog** adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

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Senator Den Hartog  
Chair

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Emily Carlisle  
Secretary