

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 01, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Vick

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** convened the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:30 P.M. She noted a couple of changes to the agenda, the first being removal of **RS 29297** at the request of the sponsor for changes. **Chair Den Hartog** then moved **RS 29312** up before the presentation and immediately after **S 1231**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chair Den Hartog passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Woodward.

S 1231: **Relating to Transportation. Chair Den Hartog** took the podium to present legislative intent language built into H 312 (2015). It included reporting requirements for local highway jurisdictions and counties on the spending of funds received under that bill. Over the years some jurisdictions received very minimal funding, making it cumbersome for local jurisdictions to report. This bill takes out the separation of funds generated through the passage of H 312 (2015) and eases reporting burdens.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1231** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 29312: **Relating to Regional Air Quality Council Act. Chair Den Hartog** introduced legislation repealing and amending existing language relating to the Regional Air Quality Council Act. She stated all signs point to Idaho meeting current required air quality standards. This legislation would complete that program, ending it in 2023.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **RS 29312** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Woodward passed the gavel back to Chair Den Hartog.

PRESENTATION: **Local Bridge Conditions. Laila Kral**, Administrator of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), provided a brief background on LHTAC's history and current responsibilities, as well as an overview of primary bridge structural components. Ms. Kral continued with statistics on Idaho's aging bridges emphasizing the impact to commerce, local industries, and communities. She outlined current and new funding, as well as the gap between allocated funds and actual need. Lastly, she touched on a few innovative methodologies for repairing the aging bridge system (Attachments 1 and 2).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Nelson** asked if any parts or regions of the state highway district are better prepared to move on the bridge repairs. **Ms. Kral** stated LHTAC is operating under the assumption that most of the structures needing work are not 'shovel ready.' These structures would require funding for both the development of engineering plans as well as construction, she said.

Senator Nelson then inquired what the timeframe was to spend the funds given that engineering would need to be accomplished first. **Ms. Kral** responded stating LHTAC had not yet received a specific deadline. She expressed confidence in their ability to complete all work, including design and construction, over the next three years or less. To support her statement, she referenced a similar project completed under a federal grant that allowed completion of eight bundled bridges across southern Idaho.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair Den Hartog** adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Senator Den Hartog
Chair

Cara Beyenka
Secretary