

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Woodward

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 1:32 P.M.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Nelson** moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2022. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 29518 **MOTOR VEHICLES – Amends existing law revising provisions for the display of license plates.** **Chair Den Hartog** stated the proposed legislation would reduce license plate display requirements to just one plate at the rear of the vehicle.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **RS 29518** to print. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chair Den Hartog passed the gavel to Senator Vick.

S 1268 **IDENTIFICATION CARDS - Amends existing law to allow for the issuance of no-cost identification cards to persons who are homeless.** **Chair Den Hartog** stated this legislation allowed for removal of the \$15 application fee. It had been identified as a barrier to homeless persons obtaining housing and employment. She explained that the underlying documentation requirements were unchanged and that, while non-renewable, the changes would allow for one free replacement Identification Card (ID).

PASSED THE GAVEL: Senator Vick passed the gavel to Chair Den Hartog.

TESTIMONY: **Michael Perry**, Kuna, Idaho, testified in support of the bill. Mr. Perry emphasized that helping people work will put tax dollars back into Idaho. He referenced his personal difficulties obtaining an ID after incarceration, and challenges experienced when assisting the homeless through the same process.

Jodi Peterson-Steigers, Executive Director, Interfaith Sanctuary Homeless Shelter, testified in support of the bill. Ms. Peterson-Steigers helped homeless people gather documents to apply for an ID and assisted in fundraising to cover costs. She stated the bill eliminated a barrier for applications and recommended offering State assistance in processing applications.

Cameron Rail, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, initially brought this issue to Chair Den Hartog's attention and testified in support of the bill. He explained that a photo ID was important to our neighbors who deserve every opportunity to succeed and become a productive part of society.

It would allow for simplicity in applying for housing or work, for voting, and for application of a Veterans Affairs (VA) ID. If a person were hurt, an official ID would allow hospital to correctly administer and track treatment. **Mr. Rail** acknowledged that despite the low cost of an ID, essential life needs would always be a financial priority. Paying for food, shelter, gas and clothing could eliminate a person's ability to pay that low ID cost and greatly reduce that person's opportunities to succeed and become a productive part of society.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1268** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: **Transportation Budget Overview. Christine Otto**, Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office, introduced herself and pointed out the historical operating budget summary and department description. She stated there were no requested supplementals for the current fiscal year, but that the Governor had recommended six. **Ms. Otto** then reviewed the budget recommendations for those six supplementals (Attachment 1):

- Airport Improvements
- Railroad Projects
- Local Bridge Maintenance
- Pedestrian and Safety Projects
- Port of Lewiston Improvement
- Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE) Bond – 2012 Debt Pay Off

Senator Vick requested an example of a rail project the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) would fund. **Ms. Otto** stated she would get that information to the Committee at a later point.

Ms. Otto went on to call out line items and a few higher dollar amounts, focusing on contract construction and Right-of-Way Acquisition programs. To wrap up she called out ITD's total increase request of 6.3 percent from fiscal year 2020 compared to the Governor's recommended 31.2 percent increase.

PRESENTATION: **PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Program. Matt Morrison**, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), provided a brief overview of the foundation. He went on to introduce PNWER's Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) initiative and its history (Attachment 2).

Bruce Agnew, Co-Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, PNWER, stressed the importance of Idaho as a crossroads state in PNWER. He emphasized PNWER's goal of being a one-stop shop for U.S. Department of Transportation credit programs and referenced a few completed projects in the region.

Mr. Agnew went on to highlight recent changes made by Congress loosening project funding restrictions, extending repayment timelines, and lowering qualification thresholds. He provided several project options PNWER could assist Idaho in funding to help relieve urban congestion.

Mr. Morrison referenced a great meeting that morning with Governor Little and his passion about the need for transportation infrastructure.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair Den Hartog** adjourned the meeting at 2:21 P.M.

Senator Den Hartog
Chair

Cara Beyenka
Secretary