

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Harris, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, Green (Dotter)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31990: **Rep. Mickelsen**, District 32, stated this proposed legislation would grant the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) authority to issue electronic driver's licenses (DL) and identification (ID) cards. These electronic DLs and IDs would be stored in the credential holder's mobile phone, in addition to the current requirement to carry the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) issued physical license or ID card. She explained, the electronic DL or ID will not be mandatory, but rather be available for those who want to utilize this new technology.

Committee members had several questions and expressed concern over the proposed legislation. One concern included if there would be liability issues if an officer drops the driver's phone and it breaks, to which **Rep. Mickelsen** replied, the proposed legislation specifies the driver is not required to surrender the phone to an officer. The officer has a scanner app and can use it while the driver holds the phone in their hand. A question was raised if the electronic DL would be a valid form of identification for voting. Rep. Mickelsen explained, this proposed legislation does not address voting and does not amend any voting statutes. Finally, there was general concern regarding being able to maintain a secure database.

MOTION: **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to introduce **RS 31990**.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** **Chairman Palmer** was in doubt of the outcome of the voice vote and called for a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 6 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Holtzclaw, Crane (12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Clow, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, and Dotter. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Chairman Palmer, Reps. Mitchell, Monks, Shepherd, Boyle, and Harris.**

Scott Stokes, Director, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), presented the annual report to the committee. He stated ITD owns and operates an integrated system of over 12,000 lane miles, over 1,800 bridges, and partners with over 100 county DMV offices to process more than 3.7 million transaction annually. ITD supports the state's aviation community by maintaining 32 backcountry airstrips, provides safety and education, and leads aviation search and rescue.

Director Stokes explained ITD's revenue sources come from both federal and state. User fees, which are dedicated funds, are primarily from fuel tax and registration fees, and are always used for public highways and bridge projects, as well as most highway maintenance, operations, and salaries. Federal funds are through multi-year federal legislation, including federal fuel and excise taxes. The Strategic Initiatives funds are the Governor's Leading Idaho dollars that are transferred out of the General Fund and used for contract construction. Finally, the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation fund (TECM) is the sales tax provided to ITD, which is primarily used for the state's bonding program. Since TECM was fully funded at \$80 million, ITD has planned, designed, and contracted nearly \$3 billion in highway and bridge projects, of which \$1 billion was bonded for TECM.

Director Stokes highlighted a variety of ongoing highway and bridge projects, and the popularity of the modernization of DMV with the "Skip the Trip" initiative, which has increased to 1.7 million transactions in 2024. He highlighted a couple new items; the availability of an eight year commercial driver's license for commercial drivers, where there was only a four year option before, and a new online portal for dealers, which will expedite the titling process and save time for everyone. Director Stokes also spoke about the new Tire Anomaly Classification System, (TAC), installed at Ports of Entry that can detect when truck tires are damaged or under inflated, allowing Port of Entry staff the ability to notify drivers before having dangerous tire blowout at highway speeds. He wrapped up by reiterating that ITD's long range planning efforts invest with purpose, with projects that bring safety and a great return on investment for decades.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary