

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Organizational Meeting	
RS 31879	Helmet, Exception, UTVs	Rep. Mitchell

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer	Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell	Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw	Rep Petzke
Rep Monks	Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd	Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12)	Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 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 (Hatch), Pohanka, Gannon, Green
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle
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.
Chairman Palmer welcomed all the committee members, then had the Page, **Alexandra Zuloeta**, introduce herself. He assigned **Reps. Pohanka and Gannon** as the committee's proofreaders.
RS 31879: **Rep. Mitchell**, District 6, stated this proposed legislation establishes an exemption for persons under eighteen years of age from the requirement to wear a helmet when riding in UTVs equipped with a roll cage and seat belts.
MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 31879. Motion carried by voice vote.**
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:37pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Thursday, January 16, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 31908	Rules of the Road, Covered Loads	Rep. Handy
RS 31813	Vehicles, Registration, Plates	Austen Gujo, DMV Policy Specialist, ITD
RS 31823	Vehicles, Licenses, Permits	Chrystal Allen, DMV Policy Specialist, ITD
RS 31819	Transportation, Data Security	Chrystal Allen

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 16, 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 (Hatch), Pohanka, Gannon, Green (Morley)
- 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 1:29pm.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31908:** **Rep. Handy**, District 27, stated this proposed legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 49-613**, by requiring complete tarping of loads of sand, gravel, and other commodities that can blow out of trucks and trailers. He indicated there are some exceptions such as canal companies, irrigation and drainage districts, and others. He also indicated there is a new fixed penalty of \$200.00.
- Committee members raised several concerns such as costs to small companies to implement, the fixed penalty, and concern for impacts on counties without higher speed roadways. **Rep. Handy** stated these issues can be addressed in the full hearing.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 31908**.
- 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 13 AYE and 3 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Palmer, Reps. Holtzclaw, Monks, Crane (12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Hatch, Pohanka, Gannon, and Morley. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Mitchell, Shepherd, and Harris.**
- RS 31813:** **Austen Gujo**, DMV Policy Specialist, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), stated this proposed legislation will align existing concepts in statute currently. It will remove the requirement for exempt agency trailers and motorcycles to receive a small license plate, giving them the option for a small or large plate, and it clarifies temporary permits, known as trip permits, are required to be purchased before commercial vehicles enter the state in all situations.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to introduce **RS 31813. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31823:** **Chrystal Allen**, DMV Policy Specialist, ITD, stated this proposed legislation has two parts. The first will make motorcycle endorsement permits and class D instruction permits valid for one year to align with the one year commercial learner's permit. The second part removes the requirement for customers surrendering a current/valid out-of-state driver's license from taking the knowledge test if they have previously held an Idaho driver's license because they have already demonstrated they understand the rules of the road in Idaho.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Clow** made a motion to introduce **RS 31823. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31819: **Chrystal Allen**, DMV Policy Specialist, ITD, stated this proposed legislation will grant ITD authority to control access to source systems and to require fingerprint background checks in accordance with REAL ID certification standards. The goal is to safeguard the personal information of all Idaho citizens.

MOTION: **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to introduce **RS 31819. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:49pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Monday, January 20, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 13	Helmet, Exception, UTVs	Rep. Palmer

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 20, 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 (Morley)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Hill

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 16, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Palmer turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Mitchell**.

H 13: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this legislation establishes an exemption in **Idaho Code, Section 49-666**, for persons under eighteen years of age from the requirement to wear a helmet when riding in UTVs equipped with a roll cage and seat belts.

In response to a committee question asking if there is a definition of UTV in statute to assist law enforcement, **Rep. Palmer** indicated there is a definition section that clearly defines UTVs, ATVs, motorcycles, cars, and other vehicle types.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 13** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chair Mitchell turned the gavel over to **Chairman Palmer**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

Representative Mitchell
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	State of the Gunfighters	Col. Mike "Singe" Alfaro, Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB
	EXECUTIVE SESSION Unclassified Intelligence Briefing 366th Fighter Wing	Maj. John Madsen, Wing Director of Intelligence Tech. Sgt. Hogg, Intelligence Superintendent Lt. Browne, Officer in Charge, CENTCOM Analysis Team

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer	Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell	Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw	Rep Petzke
Rep Monks	Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd	Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12)	Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
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Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Green

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 20, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Colonel Mike Alfaro, Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), presented the State of the Gunfighters address to the committee. The mission statement for the 366th Fighter Wing is to "provide mission-ready Gunfighters to conduct operations anytime, anywhere." Their vision is to be America's most elite Fighter Wing. He stated their priorities are the three "P's." Invest in their people, be prepared through training and field exercises, and professionalism both inside and outside of work. He remarked, in 2024 they received the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence award for innovation regarding the design of their portable solar power cells and for their dorm improvements. He stated this award and recognition is a very big accomplishment.

Col. Alfaro summarized several of the ongoing activities including the Deployable Combat Wing and Air Base Wing Validation Exercise, known as DAVE. He explained, DAVE prepares Airmen to ensure they are ready for a battlespace that is vastly different from the past 20 years of counterinsurgency operations. He explained MHAFB is one of six combat support training range sites across the Air Force and is prototyping new requirements to establish best practices for the other locations.

Col. Alfaro wrapped up his presentation with a summary of ongoing projects including the Snake River water pipeline and intake station, which will be a real property gift from the Idaho Department of Water Resources this year. He stated the Air Force will construct a water treatment plant, with completion scheduled for 2026. He highlighted investing in the quality of life for the families through the "Five and Thrive" initiative, which includes Education, Childcare, Spouse Employment, Housing, and Healthcare.

MOTION: **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion for the committee to dissolve into an executive session for the purpose of hearing an unclassified briefing given by Intelligence Experts from MHAFB. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Major Madsen, Wing Director of Intelligence, **Technical Sergeant Hogg**, Intelligence Superintendent, and **Lieutenant Browne**, Officer in Charge, CENTCOM Analysis Team, 366th Fighter Wing, MHAFB, presented an unclassified intelligence briefing to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Mitchell made a motion to reconvene the public meeting. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 31990	Electronic Driver's Licenses, IDs	Rep. Mickelsen
	2025 Report from the Idaho Transportation Department	Scott Stokes, Director, Idaho Transportation Department

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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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

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Thursday, January 30, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 32069	Parent-Student Driver's Training	Rep. Mendive
RS 31809	Model State Code, Military Justice	Rep. Hill
RS 32042	Public Rights-of-Way	Rep. Rasor

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 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 (Casner)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Petzke

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.

Vice Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

RS 32069: **Rep. Mendive**, District 3, stated this proposed legislation is a clean up of last year's **H 531**, which allows parents or guardians to privately teach their children to drive and obtain a driver's license. He remarked, the program has been very popular with 155 students completing the program and 808 in progress. But, there was an issue regarding the online training portion. This proposed legislation would provide other options, in addition to the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance, to take and complete the mandatory 30 hours of classroom training, as long as the online course is approved by the State Department of Education. He also stated this proposed legislation removes confusing language and clarifies the process.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 32069. Motion carried by voice vote.**
Vice Chair Mitchell turned the gavel over to **Chairman Palmer.**

RS 31809: **Rep. Hill**, District 14, stated the Idaho Code of Military Justice (ICMJ) is specific to the National Guard, which ensures good order and discipline. He then yielded the podium to **Captain Anderson.**
Captain Anderson, Idaho National Guard (ING), stated the intent of this proposed legislation is to clean up the ICMJ to enable commanders to address minor military misconduct within the ING, including the Idaho Air National Guard and Idaho Army National Guard, while ensuring due process. These changes include updates to add constitutional search and seizure language and the allowance for any Judge Advocate to participate in courts martial. He explained, these revisions can be found within Articles 15, 20, and 27. Captain Anderson also stated there is cleanup in several other Articles to remove inapplicable language.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 31809. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32042: **Rep. Rasor**, District 1, stated this proposed legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 40-203**, regarding abandonment of roads and public rights-of-ways. He stated, abandonment involves a lengthy process for a county or highway district to go through when a public road is being abandoned. When cases involve access to public lands or waters, this proposed legislation adds to the process to allow access evidence to be presented as well as identifying a replacement access route that must be completed before abandonment is finalized. He remarked eminent domain nor condemnation can be used, and this proposed legislation will not effect any current or pending road abandonments or vacations.

In response to a question regarding if this proposed legislation includes RS2477 roads, **Rep. Rasor** stated this proposed legislation is about abandonment/vacation of roads, not validation.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 32042. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:49pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Tuesday, February 04, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 32051	Broadband, Rights-of-Way	Rep. Vander Woude
RS 32138	Wind Turbines, Light Mitigation	Rep. Ehlers
RS 32076C1	Vehicle Loads, Coverings	Rep. Handy
RS 32144	Electronic Driver's Licenses	Rep. Mickelsen

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 04, 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 (Casner)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Hill

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

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Palmer** made a unanimous consent request to reorder the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

RS 32138: **Rep. Ehlers**, District 21, stated this proposed legislation would require commercial wind energy conversion systems (turbines) to use light mitigation technology if approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He explained, currently, there are red lights atop each turbine that constantly blink on and off. The blinking lights can be very disruptive to residents in homes, adjacent to these wind farms, that were there before the wind farms existed. This proposed legislation would mitigate the constant blinking red lights with technology used for aircraft safety, by only illuminating when aircraft is detected by radar when entering a specified distance to the wind farms.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32138. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32051: **Rep. Vander Woude**, District 22, stated this proposed legislation updates and amends Idaho's Dig Once Policy by expanding its application to single county-wide highway districts. He explained, expanding the Dig Once Policy will further encourage the cost efficient, orderly, and coordinated expansion of broadband services by requiring the single county-wide highway district to include the installation of broadband infrastructure during roadway construction and maintenance projects.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 32051. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32076C1: **Rep. Handy**, District 27, stated this proposed legislation is a replacement for **RS 31908**, heard earlier in committee, to better describe the conditions that require trucks to cover their loads. Additionally, this proposed legislation changes the penalty to an infraction.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32076C1. Motion failed by voice vote.**

RS 32144: **Rep. Mickelsen**, District 32, stated this proposed legislation is a replacement for **RS 31990**, heard earlier in committee, to better address election concerns. It clarifies that mobile identification cannot be used as a means of voter identification.

In response to committee concerns regarding if this proposed legislation prevents sharing personal information overseas, **Rep. Mickelsen** stated nothing in this proposed legislation speaks to that concern.

MOTION: **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to introduce **RS 32144. Motion failed by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:42pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Thursday, February 06, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 32197	Motor Vehicles, Towing, Storing	Rep. Boyle
DOCKET NO. 39-0203-2401	Vehicle Dealer's Principal Place of Business and Claims to the Idaho Consumer Asset Recovery Fund	Brendan Floyd, Idaho Transportation Department
39-0275-2401	Names on Drivers' Licenses and Identification Cards	Brendan Floyd
39-0341-2401	Traffic Control Devices	Brendan Floyd
39-0360-2401	Outdoor Advertising, Accident Memorials, and Other Official Signs	Brendan Floyd
39-0365-2401	Traffic Minute Entries	Brendan Floyd

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 06, 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 (Casner)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Crane(12)

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 Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:30pm

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28 and January 30, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Mitchell** made a unanimous consent request to reorder the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**DOCKET NO.
39-0203-2401:** **Brendan Floyd**, Policy Specialist for the Office of Governmental Affairs, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), stated the most substantive edit in this Docket is to clarify vague language to require a dealer's sign be visible 50 feet from their principal place of business. Other edits include removing redundant provisions already found in statute.

Rep. Gannon declared Rule 80.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0203-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
39-0275-2401:** **Brendan Floyd**, ITD, stated changes within this Docket specify how names appear on driver's licenses and identification cards. Changes include removing prescriptive language limiting where characters can be used and where they may be placed, and instead follow the North American Card Design standard, a common format used by many jurisdictions.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0275-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
39-0341-2401:** **Brendan Floyd**, ITD, stated this Docket covers the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (manual). He explained, every state must be in substantial compliance with the manual, which establishes the best practices for states to use uniform traffic control devices, but it does allow for states to deviate to some degree. Because deviation is allowed, this Docket serves to incorporate by reference the manual, and specifies the areas where Idaho differs from the manual. He provided examples of Idaho's differences, which includes photo enforcement of high occupancy vehicle lanes, light rail transit, and toll facilities, and clarified this only reflects these are not currently in use in Idaho, not that Idaho will be precluded from ever using them in the future.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0341-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 39-0360-2401: **Brendan Floyd**, ITD, stated this Docket covers outdoor advertising, accident memorials, and other official signs. He explained, besides some wordsmithing edits, the only changes include removal of definitions already covered in statute.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0360-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 39-0365-2401: **Brendan Floyd**, ITD, stated this Docket covers traffic minute entries, which are official entries made to ITD records regulating traffic, such as speed limits and parking restrictions on the state highway system. He explained, because Idaho does not perform traffic minute entries, they removed the majority of the traffic control section, as well as other sections that no longer apply to Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0365-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32197: **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, stated this proposed legislation fully repeals **Title 49, Chapter 18, Idaho Code**, and creates a new chapter relating to towing and storing of motor vehicles. The new chapter offers clear guidance and promotes consistency among Idaho's law enforcement, towing companies, lenders, and ITD.

Rep. Boyle stated there were two changes brought to her attention she would like to put before the committee. They are as follows: On page 2, lines 12-13, remove "or any affiliate of a law enforcement agency." On page 8, line 42, after "attorney," add "during reasonable business hours at no additional charge."

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 32197** with the changes stated. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

Representative Mitchell
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Monday, February 10, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 32331	World Famous Idaho Potatoes License Plate	Rep. Pickett
RS 32316	Passing Lanes, Speed Limits	Rep. Shepherd
RS 32075	Emergency Medical Services	Rep. Sauter
RS 32081	Emergency Medical Services, Compact	Rep. Sauter

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 10, 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 (Schubin)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Monks

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 February 4, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32331: **Rep. Pickett**, District 27, stated this proposed legislation will create two new license plates. The first plate will be an all black plate with white lettering, with the word "Idaho" on top and "World Famous Potatoes" along the bottom. Proceeds from the sale of these specialty plates will go to the Idaho Potato Commission and the State Highway Account. The second plate will be an all white plate with teal lettering, with the word "Idaho" on top, and "World Famous Potatoes" along the bottom. There will be no additional fees in addition to the regular registration fee, and will be the cheapest plate available for registered Idaho drivers.

In response to a committee question regarding county designators on the new license plates, **Rep. Pickett** stated there will not be county designators on either of the new plates.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 32331**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32316: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this proposed legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 49-654**, to allow vehicles to exceed the speed limit when passing in a passing lane. He explained, current law allows a driver to exceed the speed limit when passing on a two-lane road, but excludes passing lanes. This proposed legislation adds passing lanes on the same section of highway, but excludes roadways with a posted speed under 55 mph or to any portion of a roadway that is within an incorporated city.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 32316**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32075: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this proposed legislation moves the Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) to the Idaho Military Division (IMD), which already coordinates emergency management with state and local governments through the Office of Emergency Management. All existing EMS programs at DHW, with the exception of the Public Health Preparedness and Response Program, will be moved effective July 1, 2025. He remarked, although costs are still being finalized, there will be a cost reduction to the program, once moved, due to two less positions and the elimination of the Physician's Board and Physician's Commission.

MOTION: Rep. Mickelsen made a motion to introduce **RS 32075. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32081: Rep. Sauter, District 1, stated this proposed legislation is a trailer bill to **RS 32075.** There are no substantive changes to law, but is necessary because it moves the REPLICA compact among neighboring states for EMS, which has been law since 2016, to a single section in the new chapter being created by **RS 32075.**

MOTION: Rep. Mickelsen made a motion to introduce **RS 32081. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 21	Vehicles, Registration, Plates	Rep. Handy
H 22	Transportation, Data Security	Rep. Petzke
H 23	Vehicles, Licenses, Permits	Rep. Shepherd

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 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 (Schubin)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Pohanka

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.

H 21: **Rep. Handy**, District 27, stated this legislation has two parts. The first part removes the requirement for exempt agency trailers and motorcycles to only receive a small license plate with an "A" designator or an "M" designator, respectively. Exempt agencies would then have the option to receive a small or a regular sized license plate with the appropriate agency designator. The second part clarifies temporary permits, also known as trip permits, are required to be purchased before commercial vehicles enter the state in all situations. This will align Idaho with many other states and it will also align commercial vehicle and passenger vehicle requirements.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 21** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Handy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 22: **Rep. Petzke**, District 21, stated this legislation gives the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) the authority to control access to source systems and authorizes a background check requirement to gain that access. This process will bring ITD into alignment with the REAL ID issuance requirements and will better safeguard the personal information of all Idaho citizens.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 22** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 23: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this legislation has two parts. The first part will increase motorcycle endorsement permits and Class D instruction permits from six months to one year to align with the one year commercial learner's permit. The second part removes the requirement for customers surrendering a current out-of-state driver's license from having to re-take the written driver's test if they previously held an Idaho driver's license because they already demonstrated they understand the rules of the road in Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 23** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:41pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW40
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 204	World Famous Potatoes License Plate	Rep. Pickett
H 99	Parent-Student Driver's Training	Rep. Mendive
H 174	Motor Vehicles, Towing, Storage	Rep. Boyle

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer	Rep Handy	Rep Mickelsen
Vice Chairman Mitchell	Rep Hill (Hill)	Rep Pohanka
Rep Holtzclaw	Rep Petzke	Rep Gannon
Rep Monks	Rep Boyle	Rep Green
Rep Shepherd	Rep Clow	
Rep Crane (12)	Rep Harris	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 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

**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. Gannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 10, and 12, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 204: **Rep. Pickett**, District 27, stated this legislation is a nod to Idaho's past by bringing back two iconic license plates. The first is a black license plate with white lettering and the second plate is white with teal lettering. Both recognize Idaho's potato industry with the phrase "World Famous Potatoes" along the bottom. He explained, the black plate is considered a specialty plate with an initial cost of \$70; \$25 going to the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) and \$45 going to the state highway account. The renewal fee will be \$50, with \$15 going to the IPC and \$45 going to the state highway account. The white plate will cost \$30; \$20 going to the IPC and \$10 going to the state highway account. No additional fees will be charged for this plate making it the least expensive Idaho license plate. Neither plate will have county designators displayed.

Katherine Kirk, representing the Idaho Heritage Trust, spoke **in opposition** to **H 204**. She stated the white plate does not appear to be a specialty plate because there is no sponsor organization, no \$75 specialty plate fee, and no intended beneficiary or design prototype. Therefore, it appears to be a new standard plate in direct competition with the current authorized red-white-blue standard license plate. Additionally, the fee for the new white plate is lower than the current standard plate, which undermines the royalty rights paid to the Trust per a standing agreement with the Legislature.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 204** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 99: **Rep. Mendive**, District 5, stated this legislation is a clean up of last year's **H 531**, which allows parents or guardians to privately teach their children to drive and obtain a driver's license. He remarked, the program has been very popular, with 155 students completing the program and 808 in progress. He remarked, after implementation of the program an issue arose regarding the online training portion. This legislation will provide other options, in addition to the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance, to take and complete the mandatory 30 hours of classroom training, as long as the online course is approved by the State Department of Education. He also stated this legislation removes confusing language and clarifies the process.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 99** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Mendive** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 174: **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, stated this legislation fully repeals **Title 49, Chapter 18, Idaho Code**, and creates a new chapter relating to towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles. This new chapter offers clear guidance and promotes consistency among Idaho's law enforcement, towing companies, lenders, and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

In response to committee questions regarding predatory towing and excessive storage fees, **Rep. Boyle** replied towing companies are required to have set fees and if there is a dispute, there is a process outlined in the Declaration of Opposition section of the legislation.

Speaking **in support** of **H 174**; **Mark Boijvert**, Idaho Towing Association, **Matthew Clifford**, Idaho Sheriff's Association, **Terry Derden**, Ada County Sheriff's Association, and **Robert Ellsworth**, Vista Towing. They were of the opinion much work, over the last two years, went into this legislation with lienholders, towing companies, law enforcement, and ITD all at the table, with the goal in mind to modernize and standardize towing practices and protocols statewide.

Speaking **in opposition** to **H 174**; **T.J. Biggers**, Crossroads Towing, **Randy Colson**, Rocky Mountain Towing, and **Allen Hodges**, Idaho Trucking Association. They were of the opinion predatory towing has not been sufficiently addressed in this legislation leading to very high fines. Additionally, they believe the process to manage vehicles within the new portal isn't clear regarding vehicles' values, documentation if they were stolen, and the length of time processing vehicles out of storage.

Rep. Boyle stood and closed. She stated this legislation addresses how fines are set and she clarified court fees are set by the courts. She also clarified law enforcement agencies check for stolen vehicles and ITD sends notices to owners and lienholders to claim their vehicles.

MOTION: **Rep. Green** made a motion to send **H 174** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Clow and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Thursday, February 20, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
<u>H 205</u>	Passing Lane, Speed Limit	Rep. Shepherd
<u>H 206</u>	Emergency Medical Services	Rep. Sauter
<u>H 207</u>	Emergency Medical Services, Replica Compact	Rep. Sauter
<u>H 146</u>	Wind Turbines, Light Mitigation	Rep. Ehlers

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
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Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Green

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 3:08pm.

H 205: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 49-654**, to allow vehicles to exceed the speed limit, up to 15 mph over the posted limit, when passing in a passing lane. He explained, current law allows a driver to exceed the speed limit when passing on a two-lane road, but excludes passing lanes. This legislation adds passing lanes on the same section of highways, but excludes roadways with a posted speed under 55 mph or to any portion of a roadway that is within an incorporated city.

Mike Kane, AAA, stated they read the bill and would like to offer a one sentence friendly amendment. On page 2, beginning on line 16, add the following sentence after "opposing travel lane." "For the purposes of this subparagraph, "passing lane" shall not apply to any lane of an interstate highway." He commented, this would clarify the legislation was not authorizing drivers to exceed the posted highway speed limits by 15 mph due to the word "or" on page 2, line 10.

Rep. Shepherd stood and closed. He stated he did not think this change was needed because the 15 mph sentence is currently in statute and has never created any confusion.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **H 205** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 206: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this legislation moves the Emergency Medical Services Bureau (EMS) from the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) to the Idaho Military Division (IMD), which already coordinates emergency management with state and local government through the Office of Emergency Management. All existing EMS programs at DHW (except for Public Health Preparedness and Response Program) will be moved effective July 1, 2025. He remarked, this move will sunset the EMS program's rulemaking authority on and after July 1, 2027, and expresses the intent of the Legislature that the EMS program propose the codification of any necessary EMS Rules in the chapter created by this legislation before the adjournment of this current Legislative Session. Rep. Sauter commented, although costs are still being finalized, there will be a cost reduction to the program, once moved, due to a reduction in positions and the elimination of the Physician's Board and Physician's Commission.

In response to a committee question regarding if moving the EMS program to the IMD will end up taking over local city and county EMS programs, **Rep. Sauter** stated local control stays intact with the movement of the EMS program and they will not be consolidated.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 206** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Mitchell, Shepherd, and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 207: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this is procedural legislation and is a trailer bill to **H 206**. It makes no substantive changes to law and merely moves the REPLICA compact among states for EMS, which has been in place since 2016, to a single section in the new chapter created by **H 206**.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 207** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Shepherd and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 146: **Rep. Ehlers**, District 21, stated this legislation would require commercial wind energy conversion systems, which are facilities containing five or more wind turbines 50 feet or taller, to use light mitigation technology if there are red lights atop each turbine that constantly blink on and off. He explained, the blinking lights can be very disruptive to residents in homes, adjacent to these wind farms, that were in place before the wind farms existed. The technology being proposed is currently in use by aircraft to avoid collisions, by detecting obstructions with the use of radar, which would then illuminate towers, turbines, or other obstructions when aircraft get within a specified distance from those obstructions. This technology would eliminate the need for red lights on the top of turbines to stay on all the time. Any costs associated with the installation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the light mitigating technology system shall be the responsibility of the developer, owner, or operator of the wind energy conversion system. If approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, the developers, owners, or operators of the wind energy conversion systems shall install the light mitigating technology within 24 months after receiving approval.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 146** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Monday, February 24, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 235	License Plates, an Appeal to Heaven	Rep. Tanner (14)
H 234	Vehicles, Definition	Rep. Shepherd
H 78	Electronic Driver's Licenses, IDs	Rep. Mickelsen

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 24, 2025
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
- 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
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Clow
- 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 1:31pm.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Due to the absence of the bill sponsor for **H 235**, **Chairman Palmer** moved to the next agenda item.
- H 234:** **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this legislation adds wildland firefighter vehicles to the definition of authorized emergency vehicles when responding to urban interface fires. He explained, currently fire department vehicles are considered emergency vehicles but not vehicles from agencies that do wildland fire fighting. The quicker firefighters can get to urban interface fires, the faster requests for additional resources, including tanker planes and helicopters, to defend houses and critical infrastructure can be made. He stated, in these urban interface situations, time is of the essence.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to send **H 234** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 235:** **Rep. Tanner**, District 14, stated this legislation authorizes an "Appeal to Heaven" special license plate. This plate is based on the pine tree flag flown by George Washington's naval cruisers at the onset of the Revolutionary War in 1775, and is similar to the design reflected in the U.S. Postal Service's 1968 six-cent stamp, which commemorated the flag.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 235** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Tanner (14)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 78:** **Rep. Mickelsen**, District 32, stated this legislation would grant the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) the authority to issue mobile driver's licenses (MDL) and identification cards (ID), which would be stored in the credential holder's mobile phone. She explained, this new electronic driver's license and ID is optional, not mandatory, and requires that individuals still carry the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) issued physical license or ID card. She commented, since 2020, with the DMV's Skip the Trip online portal, online transactions have increased from approximately 250,000 transactions to around 1.7 million transactions, demonstrating the interest is there.

Rep. Mickelsen explained, nationally, the American Automobile and Motor Vehicle Association recognized the need to create a safe, standardized, and consistent way for personal information to be used in the digital world, and have met those high standards established by the International Standards Organization, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the International Electro-technical Organization. The Department of Homeland Security, National Security Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and law enforcement agencies currently use this same secure technology. The MDL cannot be used for voter identification, but, for example, can be used at pharmacies, bars, liquor stores, and for cigarette purchases. To date, over 70% of the states have either implemented or are in the process of implementing the MDL.

In response to a committee question regarding the use of the MDL for voter identification based on the language on page 6, lines 36-37, **Rep. Mickelsen** stated to make clear voters cannot use an MDL for voter identification purposes, she will be requesting the committee approve an amendment to **H 78** clarifying that issue.

In response to a committee question regarding the cost for businesses to acquire the app to read MDLs, **Rep. Mickelsen** responded the app is free. She also noted for an individual to update information, for example, a change of address, that too is free, whereas now there is a fee to update the physical card.

In response to a committee question regarding data security, **Rep. Mickelsen** responded there are many security standards in place to prevent identity theft and emphasized an MDL will be just as safe as a passport.

Stacey Satterlee, Idaho Bankers Association, spoke in support of **H 78**. She stated safety and security is their priority and believe this new technology shows potential by having a real-time method to identify a customer's credentials. She continued, the MDL is compliant with standards that apply to banking and having these standards incorporated into this technology would help to reduce identity fraud.

MOTION: **Rep. Handy** made a motion to send **H 78** to General Orders and requested a roll call vote.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Petzke** made a substitute motion to send **H 78** to General Orders with the following committee amendments. On page 12, add a new Section 8 to include **Section 34-1113, Idaho Code, Identification at the Polls**. In **Section 34-1113, subsection (1)**, after the word "department" add: "except that such driver's license shall not include an electronic driver's license or identification card issued by the Idaho Transportation Department pursuant to **Section 49-315A or 49-2444A, Idaho Code**."

Rep. Petzke spoke to his motion stating this is a good bill and the first step in moving towards a digital platform. He noted, there will be more steps in the future to fully implement it.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern about the security of personal information with the MDL and ID cards and how it might not be the right time to move forward with this technology. There was also a comment about how change can be difficult and uncomfortable, and it will take time to adjust, noting the next generation is wanting these types of features.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Holtzclaw, Crane (12), Handy, Petzke, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, and Green. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairman Palmer, Reps. Mitchell, Shepherd, Hill, Boyle, and Harris. Reps. Monks and Clow were absent/excused.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 300	Broadband, Right-of-Way	Rep. Vander Woude
H 101	Public Rights-of-Way	Rep. Rasor

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Monks, Pohanka, Green

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.

Due to the absence of the bill sponsor for **H 300**, **Chairman Palmer** moved to the next agenda item.

H 101: **Rep. Rasor**, District 1, stated this legislation amends **Section 40-203, Idaho Code**, regarding abandonment of roads and public rights-of-ways. He stated, abandonment involves a lengthy process for a county or highway district to go through when a public road is being abandoned. When cases involve access to public lands or waters, this legislation adds to the process to require an alternate route be located and developed before abandonment is finalized. He clarified eminent domain nor condemnation can be used. This legislation will not impact current or pending road abandonments or vacations.

Cindy Bachman, Owyhee County Board of Commissioners and **Seth Grigg**, Idaho Association of Counties, spoke **in opposition** to **H 101**. They were of the opinion this is a "one size fits all" bill that doesn't work in all situations. The main concern is the mandatory replacement road for continuity of access to public lands or waters. They implied it is extremely difficult to work with the federal government agencies who own large portions of Idaho's lands in some counties, effectively freezing county decision making. They also implied the counties may not have the means to find alternate access due to land status or funding, or the inability to use condemnation or eminent domain, so feel their hands would be tied. Additionally, there is concern regarding infringement on private property owners' rights.

Nick Fasciano, Idaho Wildlife Federation, spoke **in support** of **H 101**. He was of the opinion access to public lands and waters for hunting and fishing is very important, and as the population continues to grow in Idaho, it becomes even more critical to maintain that access.

Committee members commented there seemed to be some confusion between the public road abandonment process and the RS2477 validation process; they are not the same thing. There was also committee discussion regarding why counties choose to close public access roads, the counties responsibilities to maintain public access roads, and who bears the costs.

Rep. Rasor stood and closed. He addressed the "one size fits all" statement by explaining when there's an issue that could impact any county across the state, a piece of legislation laying out a process becomes necessary. He stated the requirement to replace the access with a new road is to avoid the loss of existing access to public lands and waters, it is not about losing a road through public lands. He continued, county commissioners have the authority to require developers to provide access to public lands and waters, and a county can close county roads, but cannot abandon roads denying access to public lands and waters where access currently exists. By statute, public roads do not have to be maintained by the counties; travel is at the risk of the user. He concluded, the bottom line is to make sure the public has access to public lands and waters where access currently exists, and to not allow that access to be taken away without providing another access point.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 101** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: A roll call vote was requested by **Rep. Boyle**. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYES, 8 NAYS, and 3 Absent/Excused**. **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Crane (12), Clow, Harris, and Gannon**. **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Palmer, Reps. Mitchell, Holtzclaw, Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, and Mickelsen**. **Reps. Monks, Pohanka, and Green were absent/excused**.

H 300: **Rep. Vander Woude**, District 22, stated this legislation updates and amends Idaho's Dig Once Policy by expanding its application from the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to include single county-wide highway districts to further encourage the cost-efficient, orderly, and coordinated expansion of broadband services. He stated, this would be accomplished by including installation of all broadband infrastructure during roadway construction and maintenance projects to minimize the number of times roadways must be cut during construction. He commented, before this legislation was drafted, there was a lot of discussion regarding microtrenching, but in the end, that option was not included in this legislation. Microtrenching is a much different technique, only digging down approximately six inches, and because of its size, doesn't allow other providers the opportunity to add in their infrastructure.

Committee discussion focused on microtrenching and clarifying the main goal of this legislation. **Rep. Vander Woude** explained, microtrenching was excluded because it appeared to be benefiting one provider. He stated, the current practice of digging trenches down 30-36 inches is much more costly than only having to go six inches, so believed it was best to not include microtrenching in this legislation. He commented, the main goal for this legislation is to allow all providers access to trenches during highway construction and maintenance projects in single county-wide highway districts, hence "dig once."

Amanda Moore, Sparklight, spoke **in support** of **H 300**. She stated Sparklight welcomes competition in all of their markets because it drives innovation and challenges all providers to be better. She emphasized competition should always take place on a level playing field, not unreasonably slanted in favor of one provider at the expense of another, so appreciates the exclusion of microtrenching in this legislation.

Ron Williams, Hawley Troxell, representing Idaho Cable Broadband Association, spoke **in support** of **H 300**. He stated in 2022, **H 640** passed, which fostered competition among broadband providers by creating a transparent, predictable, and streamlined process for allowing broadband providers access to state highways. It also prohibited ITD from discriminating, in favor or against, different broadband providers wanting access to state highways. Finally, he stated, it requires all broadband providers to follow the same "dig once" set of rules. He continued, **H 300** expands the "dig once" model to Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to follow these same practices. It would prohibit waivers to allow a provider to microtrench, rather than the current requirement to dig 30-36 inches deep. He remarked, providing special exceptions that would allow a single provider to cut costs and time by microtrenching undermines the investments all other broadband providers have already made in Ada County. He concluded, in **H 300**, ACHD would now have to be nondiscriminatory and competitively neutral, both prospectively and retrospectively.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 300** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Tuesday, March 04, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 326	Highway District, Commission Appointed	Rep. Palmer

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 04, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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

**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 Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 24, and 26, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 326: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this legislation will add two additional highway district commissioners to the current five for the Ada County Highway District (ACHD), the only single county-wide highway district out of over 300 highway districts in the state. One of the two new commissioners will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and the other by the Governor. He explained, over the last several years he has received many complaints regarding bad roads and highways and people are feeling like they aren't being adequately represented. He stated, he has been able to address some of the road issues through legislation to send additional money from sales tax to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and local highway districts, and is continuing to update those amounts as needed. He commented, he would like to see the ACHD commissioners move towards a more professional commission where there is criteria required to have a background in the transportation field. He explained, currently, the commissioners represent zones, but some of the zones feel less represented than others. He would like to see mayors and city councils have the opportunity to weigh in and have more authority rather than being left out of the process in some situations.

In response to a committee question regarding the new appointed commissioners residency, **Rep. Palmer** answered the commissioners are required to reside in Ada County. In response to a committee question regarding will these two commissioners always be appointed, or when their terms end, will they be elected, Rep. Palmer answered these two positions will always be appointed.

Lisa Hecht, Boise resident, representing herself; **Joleen Evans**, Boise resident, representing herself; **Robert Elliot**, Boise resident, representing himself; **Beth Norton**, Boise resident, representing herself; **Devin McCombs**, Boise resident, representing Boise Bicycle Project; **Logan Rutt**, Boise resident, representing himself; **Abigail Morgan**, Boise resident, representing herself; **Donald Schaff**, Boise resident, representing himself; **Elias Willerup**, Boise resident, representing himself; **Emily Boydstrum**, Boise resident, representing herself; **Mary Ruckh**, Boise resident, representing herself; and **Erik Olson**, Boise resident, representing himself, all spoke **in opposition** to **H 326**. They were of the opinion this legislation is not necessary because the current ACHD commissioners are elected and adequately represent them. They believe this is state government overreach and will take away local control. They stated the commissioners are non-partisan and

should remain that way, but with this change it will weaken the decision making process because the people being appointed might not be as invested as those who campaigned and won elections.

John Evans, Mayor, Garden City, stated although he agrees with **Rep. Palmer's** comment about wanting to have more input from cities, he spoke **in opposition** to **H 326** stating his preference would be for Ada County to not have a separately elected commission, but rather follow the governance model. This would be under the county umbrella via the joint powers agreement, which is a more efficient system and would eliminate extra layers of bureaucracy.

Ryan Head, Director, ACHD, spoke **in opposition** to **H 326**. He stated there seems to be no justification for this change, there is no public outcry for change, and there are no problems needing to be fixed. He continued, there have not been any problems coordinating projects between ITD, the county, and the highway district, and provided an example regarding the Eckert Road bridge closure. He also stated there is an error in the Fiscal Note; it should show the cost to fund two new commissioners (salaries, benefits, PERSI, etc.) at approximately \$150,000, which is ten times the amount stated.

Rep. Palmer stood and closed. He stated he appreciates ACHD; they are a professional and top notch staff, but ACHD covers more than just Boise. He wants there to be a better way to represent the entire highway district, and because ACHD is a one-of-a-kind district, it can be challenging to come up with the best method to move forward. He explained, currently, the make up of ACHD is not non-partisan. This legislation will only be adding two new commissioners to the existing five in order to try and help balance the control of decisions on where money goes for projects. He remarked, just because people in Boise don't hear about issues in other parts of the highway district, doesn't mean they don't exist.

Rep. Palmer addressed the lingering committee concern regarding the residency requirement for the newly appointed commissioners. He said it is inferred on page 1, beginning on line 27. He also stated he believed the residency requirement was already covered in existing statute.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **H 326** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a substitute motion to send **H 326** to General Orders. He remarked, the residency requirement should be stated more clearly for the two appointed commissioners.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Green** made a unanimous consent request to abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest with her current employment. There being no objection, the request was granted.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman Mitchell** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 326** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Chairman Mitchell** called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 326** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow and Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26pm.

Representative Mitchell
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Monday, March 10, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
S 1105aa	Don't Tread On Me Plates, Firearms	Rep. Boyle

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 10, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Crane(12), Hill, Clow, Pohanka, Gannon

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. Shepherd** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1105aa: **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, stated this legislation updates several items in **S 1317**, the "Don't Tread On Me" license plate, which passed in 2024. It removes the 26,000 pound weight limit making the plates available to more Idahoans, it clarifies the design layout, it ensures the funds collected from sales of the license plates goes exclusively to in-person firearms safety education, and it establishes the Idaho Firearms Safety Education Committee to administer the firearms grant fund in cooperation with the State Board of Education. She explained, this new committee will consist of seven members, who will be appointed by the Attorney General, based on criteria outlined in this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **S 1105aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:34pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 402	Driver's Licenses, Citizenship	Rep. Palmer
H 403	Driver's License, 30 Days	Rep. Palmer

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill (Hill)
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Monks, Crane(12), Handy, Mickelsen

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 Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 402: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this legislation allows people applying for driver's licenses or learner's permits to use an unexpired passport, when a certified birth certificate is not available, for proof of identity, date of birth, and citizenship status.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to send **H 402** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 403: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this legislation requires a person to apply for an Idaho driver's license and register vehicles within 30 days of becoming an Idaho resident. He explained, due to an unintended error in drafting legislation last session, the 30 days was stricken, so this legislation puts the 30 days back into statute.

MOTION: **Rep. Holtzclaw** made a motion to send **H 403** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Representative Mitchell
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
S 1159	Emergency Medical Services	Rep. Sauter
S 1071aa,aa	Vision Health, Donations	Sen. Hart Rep. Shepherd
S 1153	USS Idaho License Plate	Rep. Hill
S 1140aa	Benefit Vehicles, Penalties	Rep. Palmer
S 1144	Highways, Benefit, Motor Vehicles	Rep. Palmer

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer Rep Handy
Vice Chairman Mitchell Rep Hill
Rep Holtzclaw Rep Petzke
Rep Monks Rep Boyle
Rep Shepherd Rep Clow
Rep Crane (12) Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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 (Lesmeister)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Hill

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 March 18, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1159: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this is a trailer bill to **H 206**, an emergency medical services bill. There were concerns raised regarding language in **H 206**, which would limit a county's ability to receive funds from grants, so the language requiring county endorsed applications was removed.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1159** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1071aa,aa: **Sen. Hart**, District 2, stated this legislation would add a check box to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver's license application form, adding a voluntary \$2.00 donation, which would be used for individuals without insurance who fail the DMV eye test and cannot afford an eye exam or corrective lenses needed to retake and successfully pass the eye exam. The donations will be managed through the Organ Donation Contribution Fund, which is overseen by the State Treasurer. He explained, originally, the non-profit organization Envision Sight, was going to be the only non-profit organization receiving these funds, but after further discussion, it was decided any non-profit should be eligible to receive the funds to help individuals rather than just one specific organization.

As a result of that decision, **Sen. Hart** requested the committee make a motion to send **S 1071aa,aa** to General Orders with the following committee amendments. On page 4, delete lines 9 through 15, and insert language regarding how donations will be managed, and any Idaho-based certified eye bank organization that provides screening and vision treatment can received those funds to assist individuals in need. On page 7, delete lines 29 and 30, and insert language supporting and promoting vision screening, vision treatment, and eye health in Idaho, and specifying any Idaho-based eye bank organization that provides screening and vision treatment can received those funds to assist individuals in need.

Jay Lugo, Executive Director, Envision Sight, spoke in support of **S 1071aa,aa**. He commented, it costs the state approximately \$1,000 per patient to support them through state aid. And, because Medicare and Medicaid do not provide corrective lenses, and many employer-sponsored insurance plans do not cover necessary vision treatments, many individuals in need go untreated. He stated, this donation program will help to alleviate the financial burden while improving vision health for Idahoans in need.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to send **S 1071aa,aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a substitute motion to send **S 1071aa,aa** to General Orders with the proposed committee amendments. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1153: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, explained, due to the unavailability of the bill sponsor, he will present **S 1153**. He stated this bill establishes a five year commemorative license plate recognizing the commissioning of the fifth ship in the United States Navy fleet named USS Idaho. He explained, this plate will only be available until July 1, 2030, and the costs and fee distributions will be the same as the basic license plate.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **S 1153** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hill** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Palmer turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Mitchell**.

S 1140aa: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this legislation defines and standardizes two existing phrases used in Idaho Code; "benefit primarily motor vehicles" and "primary benefit of motor vehicles" to mean designating highway and bridge maintenance and construction projects to reduce traffic congestion, travel delays, engine idle time, and unproductive fuel consumption.

In response to a committee question regarding no mention of pedestrian safety in the definition, **Rep. Palmer** explained, although the definition does not mention pedestrians, the safety of pedestrians is articulated throughout the bill. What this is saying is pedestrian sidewalks and bike lanes cannot be the primary purpose, but absolutely can be included in traffic and congestion mitigation projects.

Courtney Madigan, from Boise; **Devin McComas**, Boise Bicycle Project; **Matt Neilson**, from Boise; **Jered Fennell**, from Boise; and **Scott Schoenherr**, Rafanelli and Nahas, all spoke in opposition to **S 1140aa**. They were of the opinion this bill would take away local control to decide what projects are most important, and without being able to prioritize sidewalks, intersections, and bike lanes, this bill doesn't consider safety first.

After committee discussion, **Rep. Palmer** stood and closed. He stated, the main goal of this bill is to clarify and standardize the definitions throughout statute. It doesn't take away the ability to improve crosswalks, sidewalks, or create bike lanes, but it does clarify they cannot be the primary purpose for road improvement projects. The primary purpose for traffic and congestion mitigation projects is for vehicles.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **S 1140aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Gannon and Lesmeister** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1144:

Rep. Palmer, District 20, stated this legislation repeals and replaces **Idaho Code, Section 40-605**. He explained, the new section of code adds two new elements; the requirement that pedestrian and bike facilities may only be improved as a secondary or collateral benefit for a highway project, and a requirement that non-residential collector and arterial roadways may not be reduced in width. He remarked, reducing the width of travel lanes creates more traffic congestion and can also become a safety hazard because fire trucks and snowplows, for example, are wider than some of the newly reduced travel lanes as a result of recent projects to add bike lanes. He also spoke about the new bulb-outs at many intersections, which also reduces travel lanes and put pedestrians waiting at intersections closer to traffic trying to navigate around them. He stated highway projects can straighten roads, widen roads, and realign roads, they just cannot narrow lanes. It applies to all highway districts in the state and clarifies the primary benefit of projects are for vehicles.

Courtney Madigan, from Boise; **Devin McComas**, Boise Bicycle Project; **Matt Neilson**, from Boise; **Jered Fennell**, from Boise; **Scott Schoenherr**, Rafanelli and Nahas; **Cynthia Gibson**, Idaho Conservation League; and **Chris Danley**, Vitruvian Planning, all spoke **in opposition to S 1144**. They were of the opinion this bill would take away local control to decide what projects are most important, and without being able to prioritize sidewalks, intersections, and bike lanes, this bill puts vehicles over the safety of people.

Rep. Palmer stood and closed. He stated safety is always the most important factor in any project, with the goal to improve roads to address the increased volume of traffic. Pedestrian and bike projects can always be considered when developing new highway projects, and this bill gives more authority than before to expand on those safety issues.

MOTION:

Rep. Harris made a motion to send **S 1144** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gannon and Lesmeister** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:47pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Friday, March 28, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
S 1180	Automated License Plate Readers	Rep. Monks

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill (Brown)
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2025

TIME: Upon Adjournment

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

**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 12:17pm.

S 1180: **Rep. Monks**, District 22, stated this legislation will more clearly limit the use of automated license plate readers relative to official law enforcement activities and precludes automated license plate reader systems from being used for non law enforcement purposes. Authorized uses include investigations of felonies or misdemeanor crimes, traffic accidents, or to search for missing or endangered persons. Additionally, agencies may use the license plate reader systems for traffic flow analysis in order to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and increase safety. Rep. Monks remarked, the second part of this legislation would eliminate the requirement for mounting a front license plate if the vehicle lacks a front license plate mounting bracket.

Committee members discussed safety concerns regarding if front license plates were absent and how it might impact law enforcement investigations.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **S 1180** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Jonathan Wheatley, representing the Idaho Association of Cities, spoke in **opposition to S 1180**. He stated, the Association has concerns over the unintended consequences of narrowing down the definition regarding who will be authorized to use license plate readers. By excluding private business owners, who use camera systems that record license plates to monitor their lots or garages, they will lose a critical tool used to protect property.

Sheriff Andy Creech, representing the Idaho Sheriff's Association, spoke in **opposition to S 1180**. He stated, the Association fully supports the license plate reader portion of the legislation, but has concerns regarding the removal of the front license plates. He stated, the presence of the front license plate facilitates quicker vehicle matches, potentially leading to faster recovery of missing persons, especially on rural highways, when law enforcement pass these vehicles. Additionally, the front license plates have been captured on license plate readers, on numerous incidents, following crimes such as homicide and aggravated assault on law enforcement. The Association firmly believes the convenience of not affixing a front plate to a vehicle, with or without brackets, must never preempt public safety.

Committee members discussed the potential safety issues from not having a front license plate, as well as if front plates are really needed any longer. There was discussion regarding how the law could be enforced on individuals with vehicles that might have had front brackets but were removed or not being used. The committee also discussed the concern cities may have if they were no longer authorized to use license plate readers for parking enforcement.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Rep. Mickelsen requested a roll call vote on the motion to send **S 1180** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion failed by a tie vote of 8 AYE and 8 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Palmer, Reps. Mitchell, Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane (12), Hill, and Harris.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Handy, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, and Green.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:47pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW40
Wednesday, April 02, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew40/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
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Approval of Minutes

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Palmer
Vice Chairman Mitchell
Rep Holtzclaw
Rep Monks
Rep Shepherd
Rep Crane (12)

Rep Handy
Rep Hill (Brown)
Rep Petzke
Rep Boyle
Rep Clow
Rep Harris

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Tracey McDonnell
Room: EW60
Phone: 332-1146
Email: htran@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, April 02, 2025
TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill (Brown), Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Harris, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, Green
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Handy, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Mickelsen, Gannon, Green
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 1:39pm.
MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26 and 28, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to reconsider the vote on **S 1180. Motion carried by voice vote.**
MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **S 1180** to the floor **WITHOUT** recommendation for further discussion. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary