

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 26, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, Harris, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Veile, 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. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the January 26, 2026 minutes. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Scott Stokes**, Director, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) presented the Department's annual report to the committee. He stated ITD owns and operates an integrated system of over 12,000 lane miles, over 1,850 bridges, and partners with over 100 county DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) offices to process more than 3.5 million transactions annually. ITD supports the aviation community by maintaining 32 backcountry airstrips and over 60 community airports with grant opportunities and airport planning.

**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. Funds from the Governor's Leading Idaho, are General Fund dollars 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. Director Stokes highlighted ongoing improvements to the Department as well as several of the highway and bridge projects underway and completed.

**RS 32984:** **Rep. Weber**, District 34, stated this proposed legislation would remove the requirement for registration stickers to be displayed when registration is required. It clarifies a valid license plate and vehicle registration are sufficient for a vehicle to be lawfully operated on Idaho roadways.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 32984**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32869:** **Rep. Mendive**, District 5, stated currently, parents in Idaho can only teach their children to drive and obtain a driver's license in rural school districts or in urban districts when no driver's training courses are offered. This proposed legislation will allow parents statewide to teach their children to drive.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 32869**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

- RS 32834:** **Rep. Mitchell**, District 6, stated this proposed legislation creates consistent identity verification of driver's licenses, registration, and titling into one system, supporting the DMV system objectives of "one person, one record."
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 32834**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 32841C1:** **Rep. Green**, District 18, stated this proposed legislation streamlines the distribution process for vehicle registration fees and fuel taxes. It updates the Highway Distribution Account distribution to treat all user fee funds the same; a 60% state and 40% local split consistent with public policy. Additionally, the local bridge inspection account will be increased from \$175,000 to \$300,000 annually in dedicated funds by a gas tax transfer. The last increase was in 2020.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32841C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary