

2020 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
of the  
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

1st Meeting

February 10, 2020

The House Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue held its first meeting of the 2020 Regular Session on February 10, 2020, at 2:00 PM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present: Representative Sal Santoro, Chair; Representatives Chris Fugate, Chris Harris, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Charles Miller, Phillip Pratt, and John Sims Jr.

Guests: Jim Gray, Secretary, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC; Sarah Jackson, Special Assistant, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC; Andrew Aiello, General Manager, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK); Shirley Cummins, Executive Director, Rural Transit Enterprises Corporated (RTEC); Carrie Butler, General Manager, Lexington Transit Authority (LexTran); Ferdinand Risco, Executive Director, Transit Authority of River City (TARC); and Pam Shepherd, Executive Director, Federal Transportation of the Bluegrass (FTSB), also representing the Kentucky Public Transportation Association (KPTA).

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, David Talley, Dillard Collier, Jim Thornton, and Spring Emerson.

**Transportation Cabinet**

Secretary Gray provided opening remarks regarding the KYTC. Robin Brewer provided a brief overview of the KYTC budget.

In response to a question from Representative Heavrin regarding Volkswagen settlement funds used in public transit, Ms. Brewer said there had been \$1.5 million appropriated in fiscal year 2021 to be used for matching funds for federal transit grants, which include restrictions as to how the funds can be used.

In response to questions from Chair Santoro regarding river port improvements and non-public school transportation, Ms. Brewer said there is \$500,000 per year in General Fund listed under General Administration and Support for river port improvement projects. There is currently \$3.5 million per year in General Fund listed under Public Transportation for non-public school transportation.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding the REAL ID program, Secretary Gray said there are four regional offices operating to date, located in Frankfort, Bowling Green, Paducah, and Somerset. He said the KYTC is packing a three-year project into a period of eleven months. Ms. Jackson said there is a very committed team on the project, and twelve to fourteen regional offices will be in operation by late spring or early summer. Three or four of those should be operational within days. She said citizens with a passport or military ID can fly without a REAL ID. Secretary Gray said that approximately one million Kentuckians currently have passports. Ms. Brewer said there is \$4.1 million for the REAL ID program in the current fiscal year, and approximately \$15.4 million in each of the next two fiscal years.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding educating the public, Ms. Jackson said they have an excellent website that explains exactly what documents are required to obtain the REAL ID. Chair Santoro asked about the number of terminals in Frankfort, and Ms. Jackson said there are currently six terminals in Frankfort, with an approximate waiting time of an hour. There should be four more issuing stations at the KYTC in Frankfort by the end of this week.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding funding issues, Secretary Gray said that anytime there is a fifteen percent decline in revenues, there is a problem.

### **Public Transit**

Mr. Aiello, Ms. Cummins, Ms. Butler, Mr. Risco, and Ms. Shepherd provided information relating to the budgetary issues of TANK, RTEC, LexTran, TARC, and FTSB, respectively. Mr. Aiello said they are asking for support of \$10 million per year to be used for matching federal funds to help alleviate the loss of toll credits.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding the per capita numbers in comparison to other states, Mr. Aiello said those numbers had been consistent over the years. Mr. Risco added that TARC services two routes in two counties in southern Indiana, and the state of Indiana provides \$1.2 million. TARC also services 41 counties in Kentucky, and only \$350,000 has been received from the Commonwealth for the past several years. TARC is at the end of a comprehensive operations analysis and have completely redesigned their systems in order to maximize their resources.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further questions, a motion to adjourn was made by Representative Huff, seconded by Representative Fugate, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM without objection.