

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation**

### **Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2020 Interim**

**July 8, 2020**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The second meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Jimmy Higdon, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Jimmy Higdon, Co-Chair; Representative Sal Santoro, Co-Chair; Senators Dennis Parrett, Robin L. Webb, and Max Wise; Representatives Chris Fugate, Chris Harris, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Bart Rowland, John Sims Jr, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Megan McLain, Innovative Finance Manager, Department of Highways, KYTC; Sarah Jackson, Special Assistant, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC; Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC; and, Jon Wilcoxson, Assistant State Highway Engineer for Project Delivery and Preservation, Department of Highways, KYTC.

LRC Staff: David Talley and Spring Emerson.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Co-Chair Santoro to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Fugate, and the minutes were approved without objection.

#### **Louisville Bridges**

Megan McLain attempted to provide an update of the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges (LSIORB) project, but there were technical difficulties with the audio connection. She will instead provide that information at the next subcommittee meeting.

#### **REAL ID**

Sarah Jackson and Robin Brewer provided an update of the REAL ID licensing program.

In response to questions from Chair Higdon regarding regional offices and their capabilities, Ms. Jackson said currently the main focus is issuing drivers licenses and photo identification cards rather than the REAL ID. Barring further closure issues due to the pandemic, the goal is to try to have 18 regional offices operational by next year.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding the cost of the 18 regional offices, Ms. Brewer said the current budget includes around \$15 million for REAL ID, with an additional \$3 million for other necessary and related responsibilities.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding mobile units visiting various counties, Ms. Jackson said legislation requires a certain number of visits per year based on county populations. There are currently eight mobile units, and more can be added if necessary.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding the acquisition of license renewals online, Ms. Jackson said they are currently working with vendors on that issue.

### **Highway Maintenance**

Jon Wilcoxson provided testimony regarding Highway Maintenance and their efforts to reduce expenditures.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding the purchase of salt for winter roads, Mr. Wilcoxson said about \$27 million was spent last winter for salt, which is low due to the mild winter. The average cost would be around \$44 million. Contract costs are incurred regardless if it snows or not, and approximately \$12.7 million was spent in contract costs last year.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.