

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

July 1, 2026

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 July 1, 2026, at 10:30 AM ET/9:30 AM CT in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Donald Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Representative Ken Upchurch, Co-Chair; Senators Cassie Chambers Armstrong and Jimmy Higdon; and Representatives John Blanton, Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Thomas Huff, Mary Beth Imes, Tom Smith, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: Mike Proctor, EVOLVEKY Board Member/Publicity Chair; and Bobbi Jo Lewis, Commissioner, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, Jeremy Simpson, and Spring Emerson.

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Upchurch moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Huff, and the minutes were approved without objection by voice vote.

EV Charging Stations

Mike Proctor, EVOLVEKY Board Member/Publicity Chair provided information on electric vehicle charging stations in Kentucky.

In response to Representative Blanton, Mr. Proctor said the cost of operating an electric vehicle is close to the same as the cost of operating a gasoline-powered vehicle, and EV users are not being overcharged.

Senator Higdon commented that the morning news mentioned Kentucky's power generating plants use 20 million tons of coal per year, and prior to 2010 almost all of that coal came from Kentucky. Now approximately 2/3 of that comes from other states. In regard to the increase in EV usage, Mr. Proctor said there were 395 EV registrations in Kentucky in 2013, and as of 2025 there were approximately 27,883.

In response to Senator Chambers Armstrong, Mr. Proctor said there is no available data yet regarding the \$150 usage fee per charger. Location of charging stations plays a large part in the amount of usage fees collected.

LARP and City/County Bridge Program

Bobbi Jo Lewis, Commissioner, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, KYTC provided information on the Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) as well as the City and County Bridge Improvement Program.

In response to Representative Smith, Commissioner Lewis said the Chip-Seal Program does not allow the counties to use their County Road Aid Grant Pool Program funds to apply it to gravel roads. Representative Smith commented that the use of the Chip-Seal Program provides a good opportunity to eliminate gravel roads that cost more in maintenance.

In response to Chairman Douglas, Commissioner Lewis said the most common concerns of the local governments are with the County Road Aid and Flex Funds.

In response to Senator Higdon, Commissioner Lewis said the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) guidebook helps smaller communities navigate the requirements of federal funds, along with the Local Public Agency (LPA) guide.

Senator Higdon commended the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for their work and expressed his appreciation.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2026. There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM ET/10:32 AM CT.