

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

August 4, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on August 4, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET/12:00 PM CT in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative John Blanton, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative John Blanton, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Gary Clemons, Donald Douglas, Greg Elkins, Brandon J. Storm, Gex Williams, and Mike Wilson; and Representatives Ryan Bivens, Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Anne Gay Donworth, Myron Dossett, Daniel Elliott, David Hale, Samara Heavrin, John Hodgson, Mary Beth Imes, Bobby McCool, Amy Neighbors, Rachel Roarx, Tom Smith, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Walker Thomas, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Jake Holmgreen, Senior Associate, Southeast Government Relations, DoorDash; Shaun McKiernan, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); John Moore, Deputy State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC; Matt Bullock, Executive Director, District 5 - Louisville; James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC; and Jon Johnson, Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, KYTC.

LRC Staff: John Snyder, Dana Fugazzi, Ashley Nash, and Christina Williams.

Approval of June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Douglas and seconded by Representative Bivens, to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Personal Delivery Devices

Jake Holmgreen, Senior Associate, Southeast Government Relations, DoorDash, discussed personal delivery devices including autonomous delivery modes. Those modes and increased technology are meant to support the human networks, not replace them. The objective is to capture increased demand for local commerce, and improve delivery

quality for customers. Mr. Holmgreen referenced his company's support of 26 RS HB 741, which defined and established regulations for personal delivery devices.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Holmgreen stated the autonomous delivery modes currently have approximately 200,000 miles on the road from the jurisdictions they operate in, with no major safety incidents or injuries occurring.

Representative Donworth expressed her concerns surrounding the usage of the autonomous delivery modes and encouraged an increased amount of liability insurance coverage if legislation is passed to allow the delivery devices. She also suggested using the funds utilized for research and development of delivery devices, to increase the wages of the drivers instead of using those devices to solve a driver shortage issue.

In response to Senator Clemons, Mr. Holmgreen stated he is unsure how many humans are monitoring the autonomous delivery modes; however, they are monitored at all times. Senator Clemons also expressed his concern of job loss if autonomous delivery devices are utilized.

Road Fund Report - FY 26 Closeout

Total Road Fund receipts for FY 25-26 were \$1.822 billion, which were \$72.4 million less than the enacted FY 26 Road Fund estimate of \$1.894 billion. The primary driver of this shortfall were motor fuel tax revenues, where the enacted estimate was based on a motor fuel tax rate of 29.1 cents per gallon, while the actual rate for FY 26 was 25 cents per gallon. This led to fuel tax revenues lagging \$122 million (14.4%) behind the enacted amount. Motor vehicle use tax revenues exceeded the enacted amount by \$73.9 million (11.2%).

The Road Fund total shortfall of \$78.6 million for FY 2025-26 was addressed primarily by reducing revenue sharing by \$65.1 million and reducing the cabinet's budget by \$8 million.

In response to Chair Blanton, Mr. McKiernan stated of the \$45.7 million motor fuels tax shortfall, \$20 million of that was due to the Executive Order issued by Governor Beshear declaring a state of emergency and reducing the gasoline tax by 10 cents per gallon in May 2026. Also, in response to Chair Blanton, Mr. McKiernan stated each penny of the sales tax generates approximately \$30 million, so .4% is around \$15 million that will be lost in revenues due to the executive order as well. Chair Blanton also reiterated the loss of fuel revenues as a result of consumers driving more fuel-efficient vehicles, as well as the need to produce revenues.

Implementation of 26 RS HB 571

John Moore, Deputy State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC, discussed the implementation of 26 RS HB 571 concerning highway lighting restrictions near agricultural land. He stated roadway lighting has been proven to reduce nighttime pedestrian crashes, nighttime intersection crashes, and nighttime injury crashes on highways.

In response to Chair Blanton, Mr. Moore stated the implementation of HB 571 has been included in KYTC's policy and they will strive to meet the requirements. Also, in response to Chair Blanton, Mr. Moore stated there has been one instance where a complaint was made and KYTC adjusted the fixtures around the property in response.

Representative Bivens expressed his concern over the impact and intensity of the additional lighting.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Moore stated if there is an area prone to crash history, the cabinet will install lighting. Otherwise, the lighting is installed because of a permit obtained by the local municipality.

Interstate 65 (I-65) Project Progress Report

Matt Bullock, Executive Director, District 5, Louisville; and James Ballinger, State Highways Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC, gave an update on the I-65 project progress. I-65 reopened to traffic on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, which was 3 days ahead of schedule. The closure saved more than a year of additional restrictions for the bridges.

Work continues on three key bridges until March 2027. Six additional bridges in downtown Louisville need to be replaced or rehabilitated, and the work will begin on those soon.

In response to Senator Williams, epoxy coated rebar is used versus stainless steel rebar.

Representative Roarx suggested the use of the work zone safety cameras in these areas.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

Jon Johnson, Assistant General Counsel, KYTC, discussed 601 KAR 001:114, concerning peer to peer services. No further action was taken.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, Chair Blanton adjourned the meeting.