

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2020 Interim

August 19, 2020

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Sal Santoro, 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 and Robin L. Webb; Representatives Chris Fugate, Chris Harris, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Bart Rowland, John Sims Jr, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC; Mark Day, Immediate Past Chair, Kentuckians for Better Transportation (KBT); Andy Aiello, General Manager, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky; Chuck Craycraft, Senior Vice President, HW Lochner Consulting Engineers; John Mahre, Deputy Judge-Executive, Christian County; and Megan McLain, Innovative Finance Manager, Department of Highways, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, David Talley, and Spring Emerson.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Co-Chair Higdon to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Huff, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC, provided an overview of the cabinet's year-end closeout.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon regarding fuel usage tax revenues, Ms. Brewer said they were down by about 1.1 percent compared to July of last year, and that should normalize with the addition of August receipts.

Kentuckians for Better Transportation

Mark Day, Director for Development and Facilities, Lexington-Bluegrass Airport, and Immediate Past Chair of KBT, provided an overview of KBT.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding the downturn in air travel due to the pandemic, Mr. Day said activity was a 70 percent reduction from July 2020 as compared to July 2019. He added that there had been some family vacation travel, but business and international travel has decreased dramatically. Mr. Aiello said there is a long-term need for General Fund allocations. Mr. Craycraft said there had been impacts to transportation funding since 2015, when the gas tax took such a big hit. Co-Chair Higdon commented that currently there are 1,500 all-electric vehicles and 34,500 hybrid vehicles in Kentucky, and it has been projected that there will be approximately 450,000 electric vehicles in the state by 2030. He said there needs to be a user fee implemented, since these vehicles do not contribute motor fuels taxes.

Representative Harris commented on the importance of infrastructure maintenance, especially in areas such as Martin County. Chair Santoro agreed that these are very important issues, and thanked KBT for their input.

Louisville Bridges

Ms. McLain provided an overview and update of the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges project.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon regarding the camera vendors having problems capturing license plates, Ms. McLain said the percentage of successful captures is at 99 percent. She said despite having images of nearly all licenses crossing the bridges, there are a few that are not included. She will provide actual numbers at a later date.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon regarding unpaid toll bills being written off, Ms. McLain said no interest is charged on outstanding balances. There are three different fees charged for non-payment, and then a hold is placed on vehicle registrations. The hold is not removed until the toll is paid. Ms. McLain will provide more information when year-end closeout is complete.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.