

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2021 Interim

September 24, 2021

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Friday, September 24, 2021, at 10:30 AM, in Room 131 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 Brandon J. Storm, Robin L. Webb, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Chris Fugate, Samara Heavrin, Shawn McPherson, Jason Petrie, Phillip Pratt, Rachel Roberts, Cherlynn Stevenson, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Jim Gray, Secretary, KY Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer, KYTC; and John Moore, Assistant State Highway Engineer, KYTC.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Co-Chair Santoro to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative McPherson, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Update on Mega Projects

Secretary Gray provided a brief overview of three major projects; the Brent Spence Bridge companion crossing, the ORX I-69 interstate highway corridor and bridge, and the Mountain Parkway expansion.

Representative Stevenson commended the KYTC for their work on the Mountain Parkway, and expressed her appreciation.

In response to questions from Chair Higdon regarding grant funding, Secretary Gray said the Brent Spence Bridge is getting attention through the federal infrastructure package that is currently in Congress, and the KYTC expects to apply for a grant for that project.

He added that they already applied for a grant for the I-69 project. Matching funds are required in most cases, and due to the competitive nature of the market, some require more than a twenty percent match.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding tolls, Secretary Gray said tolls are speculation at this point, and it is preferred that they be avoided, if possible.

In response to questions from Representative Roberts, Secretary Gray said the Brent Spence Bridge is scheduled to reopen after the painting project is complete, which is slated for this fall. Mr. Ballinger said the traffic pattern change that impacts the on and off ramps from the outer loop of I-275 to I-471 will be addressed within the next several months.

In response to questions from Representative Petrie, Secretary Gray said there are other semi-major projects, and a list will be provided to the subcommittee. Representative Petrie requested that a list of major regional projects currently in process be provided, as well as a list of infrastructure grants being applied for which includes the amount of required matching funds, and any local components that would be required. Mr. Moore added that fiscal support is the best support that can be demonstrated.

S.H.I.F.T. Process and Priorities

Mr. Moore provided a brief explanation of the Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) process and priorities.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding SHIFT meetings, Mr. Moore said they would keep in mind that meetings should be scheduled to include legislators.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon regarding SHIFT scores and priorities, Mr. Moore said those were not previously included on the Six-Year Road Plan, but it will be considered for future Road Plans.

Senator Storm commented that the World Chicken Festival will be held in London this weekend, and he invited all to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.