

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

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation**

### **Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2022 Interim**

**August 17, 2022**

#### **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, August 17, 2022, at 10:30 AM, in Room 131 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 Johnnie Turner and David Yates; Representatives Randy Bridges, Chris Fugate, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Shawn McPherson, Phillip Pratt, Rachel Roberts, Cherlynn Stevenson, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Jim Gray, Secretary, KY Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Kenny Bishop, Legislative Liaison, KYTC; Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC; and, Pat Grugen, Executive Director, KYTC Support Services.

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Higdon made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Fugate, and the minutes were approved without objection.

#### **Flood Damage in Eastern Kentucky**

Co-Chair Higdon commended Secretary Gray and the Transportation Cabinet for all they are doing to assist with the disaster in Eastern Kentucky. He said Secretary Gray has been dubbed “The Master of Disaster” as a result. He thanked all who have been involved with the aftermath of the flooding.

Secretary Gray presented information on the catastrophic event and provided an overview of what is being done to assist in recovery efforts. He commented on the

competence and commitment of all those helpers, the response of the Governor, and KY Emergency Management, among others.

Representative Fugate commented that he could not name everyone, but wanted to convey his appreciation for Chief Advisor Rocky Adkins, and all who helped. He then expressed his concern for road conditions on KY 451, KY 1110, and the Airport Road in Hazard. There are more than two hundred residences affected. He asked about the possibility of placing travel trailers on personal property rather than at a state park. Secretary Gray said cases are considered individually, and he will get back with an answer on those guidelines.

In response to a question from Representative Heavrin regarding privately-owned bridges in the low areas, Secretary Gray said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has dealt with similar issues in the past, and ongoing discussions are taking place regarding what can be done and how best to achieve that.

In response to a question from Representative Heavrin regarding whether there would be an infrastructure investment or a patchwork approach, Secretary Gray said it is not a case of either/or, rather it is both/and. There is an opportunity for improvement in the rebuilding effort.

In response to a question from Senator Turner regarding widening streams, Secretary Gray said they are working on parallel tracks with the Energy and Environment Cabinet on stream debris removal.

In response to a question from Chair Santoro regarding highway contractors providing assistance, Secretary Gray said contractors and consulting engineers familiar with the area were the first to step up, volunteering to help. Contractors also did the same in the aftermath of the recent tornadoes in Western Kentucky.

Co-Chair Higdon expressed his appreciation for the KYTC team and all they do. He then inquired about cost estimates and Secretary Gray replied that the number is more than can be speculated, and it would be significant.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon regarding grants, required matching funds, and the time frame for announcement of grant awards, Secretary Gray said that seven transit agencies, most of which were Community Action Councils, had received approximately \$3 million. Applications were submitted for the Bridges of National Significance bridge investment program funding, which would include approximately \$1.66 billion for the Brent Spence Bridge project. The bridge investment program award may be the first and could be expected as early as the next quarter of this year. There are two applications in process for the Brent Spence Bridge, requiring a multi-year commitment.

### **KYTC Capital Budget**

Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, and Pat Grugen, Executive Director, KYTC Support Services, provided a brief overview of the Capital Projects within the Transportation Cabinet.

In response to a question from Representative McPherson regarding the effect of inflation within the construction industry, Mr. Grugen replied that a conservative estimate would be approximately thirty-five percent.

Chair Santoro thanked the KYTC for the information provided and expressed his appreciation for all they do as they face the challenges we are currently facing.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.