

## **BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

### **Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2023 Interim**

**November 2, 2023**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The sixth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on November 2, 2023, 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: Representative Ken Upchurch Co-Chair; Senator Jimmy Higdon Co-Chair; Senators Johnnie Turner and David Yates; Representatives John Blanton, Thomas Huff, Shawn McPherson, Ruth Ann Palumbo, Tom Smith, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: Mike Hancock, Deputy Secretary, KY Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer, KYTC; Robin Brewer, Executive Director, Office of Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC; and, Amanda Spencer, Assistant State Highway Engineer, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, Savannah Wiley, and Spring Emerson.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Representative McPherson moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Upchurch, and the minutes were approved without objection.

#### **Department of Highways and Mega Projects Bonding**

Mr. Hancock and Mr. Ballinger provided information on the Department of Highways and Mega Projects Bonding.

In response to a question from Representative Blanton regarding the \$50 million request for bridges, Mr. Hancock said the it is for current needs as well as a contingency for future needs, targeted specifically for counties and cities, through the Department for Rural and Municipal Aid.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon, Mr. Hancock said this funding is in addition to all the bridge programs.

In response to questions from Representative Smith, Mr. Hancock said the \$95 million federal grant slated for infrastructure can be used without appropriation by committee.

In response to questions from Senator Yates, Mr. Ballinger said guard rails and bridges are subject to regular periodic inspections. More information is available on the KYTC website.

In response to questions from Representative Tackett Laferty, Mr. Hancock said the focus of the moneys in the Road Fund is to move bridges forward.

Representative Palumbo expressed her gratitude for the work on the interstate at exit 113 in Lexington going so smoothly.

In response to questions from Chair Higdon regarding rural and secondary roads, Mr. Ballinger said the percentage of efficiency will be provided later. He agreed that there are numerous roads that are twenty years old and said the cabinet is working to extend the life of those as much as possible, as well as extending the life of bridges.

In response to questions from Representative Blanton, Mr. Ballinger said the possibility of acquiring the necessary equipment to address surface repairs and improvements is being explored. Special effort is being taken to focus on the small drainage inventory as well.

Representative Smith commented that the information requested last month regarding taxing electric vehicles will be needed before January.

In response to a question from Representative Tackett Laferty, Mr. Ballinger said the responsibility for keeping creek beds, river sides, and other drainage issues cleaned out lies in different camps depending on location.

In response to questions from Chair Higdon regarding the possibility of not receiving federal grants that have been requested, Mr. Hancock said projects can be scaled back if necessary. Estimates for cost increases have not yet been rolled into a percentage, but will be provided when ready.

### **Louisville Bridges Tolling**

Ms. Spencer provided information regarding the Louisville Bridges tolling.

In response to a question from Chair Higdon, Ms. Spencer said the tolling project has performed well. A calculation is made annually to determine how much of the revenue needs to go into each of the reserve accounts. Revenue is necessary for operations as well.

Senator Turner commented that a breakdown of the data is needed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.