

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2024 Interim

July 17, 2024

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 July 17, 2024, at 10:30 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Ken Upchurch, 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; Representatives John Blanton, Stephanie Dietz, Shawn McPherson, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: LTC Jeremy Hamm, Executive Director, Office of Administrative Services, KSP; Major Emily Horton, Director, Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, KSP; and, Ron Rigney, Transportation Engineer, Director, Department of Highways, KYTC.

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

Kentucky State Police

Colonel Hamm and Major Horton presented information on the use of Road Fund Appropriations by the KSP.

In response to a question from Chair Upchurch regarding the number of troopers and commercial vehicle enforcement officers, Colonel Hamm responded that he will provide the number of troopers at a later date. Major Horton said there are approximately thirty-nine commercial vehicle enforcement officers.

Co-Chair Higdon expressed his appreciation for the work they do, and commented that the General Assembly wants to provide support. Colonel Hamm said he was not sure of the exact number of troopers due to the recent addition of thirty-seven graduating cadets. He also commented that some officers are expected to retire soon, which will also affect the numbers.

Co-Chair Higdon inquired about damage due to overweight trucks on rural roads, and Major Horton responded that officers are currently assigned to one weigh detail per month. Co-Chair Higdon also asked about commercial drivers using farm tags to perform

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non-farm related work, to which Major Horton replied that they are cited when seen, but most drivers with farm exemptions are legitimate farmers.

In response to a question from Representative Blanton regarding the next class of cadets, Colonel Hamm said the goal is to accept approximately one hundred applications for the November group of cadets. He will provide the number of applications they receive at a later date. They are implementing proactive recruiting efforts and remaining optimistic. Representative Blanton commented that some people from other states think KSP is used only for highway patrols, but in reality it is a full service agency, sometimes known as the "Marine Corps of Law Enforcement."

In response to a question from Chair Upchurch regarding weigh stations, Major Horton said there are fourteen total stations, with one being electronic only and four being unmanned, with another coming soon.

In response to a question from Representative Blanton, Colonel Hamm said the KSP does not have its own firing range. Representative Blanton commented that the KSP serves every city and county in Kentucky and needs its own range, rather than having to borrow the range from the City of Frankfort. He added that the KSP needs more funding.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon, Major Horton said there is a recruiting class for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division.

Chair Upchurch commented that the General Assembly wants to help, and requested that the KSP provide a list of needs and their projected costs.

KY Transportation Cabinet

Director Rigney presented information on the Federal Funds Match.

In response to questions from Representative Blanton, Mr. Rigney said the grant funds for the Brent Spence Bridge had already been received. The grant application for the Mountain Parkway is in process, and the General Assembly approval of matching funds is greatly appreciated. Thirty-seven million was earmarked by Congress for that project, made its way through the House and awaits consideration by the Senate.

In response to a question from Representative McPherson regarding the timeline for receipt of grant funds, Mr. Rigney said normally a weekly billing process is used as expenditures occur on current projects. Representative McPherson inquired about federal funds for the flooding in Eastern Kentucky. Mr. Rigney said parts of that have been received, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been actively working on it.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Higdon regarding toll credits, Mr. Rigney said toll roads must be built in order to receive toll credits. Co-Chair Higdon commented that Mr. Rigney is very knowledgeable and expressed his appreciation for his hard work.

Chair Upchurch also expressed his appreciation, and thanked Mr. Rigney for his presentation.

Adjournment

Chair Upchurch announced the presence of guests with Representative Tackett Laferty, and she introduced them as her son, Owen Walker, and her niece, Ruby Tackett.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.