

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim

June 4, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on June 4, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Donald Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas Co-Chair; Representative Ken Upchurch Co-Chair; Senator Jimmy Higdon; Representatives Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Thomas Huff, Tom Smith, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: Bobbi Jo Lewis, Commissioner, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, KYTC.

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

County and City Bridge Improvement Program Update

Commissioner Lewis provided an update on the Bridge Improvement Program.

Senator Higdon expressed appreciation for the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid and their accessibility. In response to a question from Senator Higdon, Commissioner Lewis said that if a project was not considered as funding-ready at the end of the fiscal year, a notification is sent to determine if the application should be rolled over into the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Lewis expressed her excitement that Greg Meredith, a former district engineer and former city engineer in Bowling Green, has been added to the department as an executive advisor in order to help with the bridge program. His assistance will help move the projects along in a more timely manner.

In response to a question from Representative Bridges, Commissioner Lewis said projects that are rolled over would be re-evaluated as a whole at the end of each phase.

In response to questions from Chair Douglas, Commissioner Lewis said when looking at a preservation project, longevity estimates are considered. If a project would extend the longevity, it may not change the load posting. Taking these points into consideration could

lead to saving money. Other considerations are made for Isolated Community Access Bridges. Funds are distributed equitably across the state, and a map, still in development, will show where monies are distributed.

County Priority Projects Program Update

Commissioner Lewis provided an update on the County Priority Projects Program and the Local Assistance Road Program.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Upchurch, Commissioner Lewis said project photographs are not yet accessible online, but the cabinet is working on making them available.

In response to a question from Chair Douglas, Commissioner Lewis said measurement of successes would depend on the nature of the projects being applied for. Requirements are to restore the original condition of the road, which would not include any additions or changes.

In response to a question from Representative Bridges, Commissioner Lewis said if a project estimate comes in over the designated amount, that request would be rejected, as there is no extra money.

Transportation Alternative Program Overview

Commissioner Lewis provided an overview of the Transportation Alternative Program.

In response to a question from Chair Douglas regarding the Safe Routes to School projects, Commissioner Lewis said the program works with the school plan.

In response to questions from Senator Higdon, Commissioner Lewis said there is no specific limit listed for grant funding for projects. Federally funded projects have numerous requirements, which takes more time. The KYTC is implementing a new computer program to help track projects.

Adjournment

Representative Branscum announced that today is the birthday of Co-Chair Upchurch.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.