

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

November 5, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation was held on November 5, 2025, 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 Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Senators and Jimmy Higdon; and Representatives John Blanton, Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Mary Beth Imes, Tom Smith, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: Bobbi Jo Lewis, Commissioner, Dept. of Rural and Municipal Aid, KYTC; Jennifer Kirchner, Executive Director, Kentuckians for Better Transportation; Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority; Ben Weithman, Henderson County Riverport Authority; Tyler White, RJ Corman; Emily Herron, Henderson City-County Airport; Fred Combs, LexTran; Chad LaRue, Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors; and, Andy Barber, HDR.

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, Jeremy Simpson, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Douglas moved to approved the minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Smith, and the minutes were approved without objection by voice vote.

Local Assistance Road Program

Bobbi Jo Lewis, Commissioner, Dept. of Rural and Municipal Aid, KYTC, presented information on the Local Assistance Road Program.

In response to Chair Upchurch, Commissioner Lewis said some projects had progressed through from Level 9 to Level 10. The rate of progression can vary, based on various factors. Last year, the cost of Level 8 through 10 projects was approximately \$140 million, with the Level 10 projects alone at \$51 million.

In response to Representative Blanton, Commissioner Lewis agreed that simplifying the process of submitting photos and drone footage would be a great idea.

In response to Representative Smith, Commissioner Lewis said the process is multifaceted, with some parts being more beneficial and others not as much.

In response to Chair Upchurch, Commissioner Lewis said that under the previous system, the project applications were received throughout the year, whereas now they are concentrated within a certain timeframe. Sixty-three percent of the projects applied for were received within the last few days of the application process, with 417 coming in on October 1 alone.

In response to Representative Branscum, Commissioner Lewis said staff appointed by the Chief District Engineer are directed to evaluate the projects.

Multi-Modal Funding Priorities

Jennifer Kirchner, Executive Director, Kentuckians for Better Transportation; Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority; Ben Weithman, Henderson County Riverport Authority; Tyler White, RJ Corman; and Emily Herron, Henderson City-County Airport, presented information regarding Multi-Modal Funding Priorities.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Wright said a major challenge is aging infrastructure and opportunities exist to capture new businesses for modernization and for the future. Mr. Weithman said all business is considered as asset preservation.

In response to Senator Higdon, Mr. Wright said all of the Kentucky Riverports have a Long-Term Capital Plan and a Master Plan. They generate revenue and every dollar received is reinvested into infrastructure improvements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.