

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

August 5, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on August 5, 2026, at 10:30 AM ET/9:30 AM CT 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; Senator Cassie Chambers Armstrong; Representatives John Blanton, Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Mary Beth Imes, Tom Smith, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests: Jason Siwula, Executive Director, Project Development, Dept. of Highways, KYTC; Ron Rigney, Director, Transportation Engineering, Dept. of Highways, KYTC; Susan Oatman, Transportation Engineer, Dept. of Highways, KYTC; and, Shaun McKiernan, Budget Director, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Justin Perry, Jeremy Simpson, and Spring Emerson.

FY 27 Lettings and Federal Grants Update

Jason Siwula, Executive Director, Project Development, Dept. of Highways, KYTC; Ron Rigney, Director, Transportation Engineering, Dept. of Highways, KYTC; and Susan Oatman, Transportation Engineer, Dept. of Highways, KYTC, provided an update of fiscal year 2027 lettings, including information on construction phase spending over the biennium as well as federal grants.

In response to Representative Branscum, Director Siwula said they have awarded more dollars for construction projects this year than during the same period of time last year. Representative Branscum expressed his concern that Kentucky road contracting work crews are moving their jobs to other states, sending their resources elsewhere.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Director Siwula said the Singing Bridge replacement project in Frankfort will be configured to the current standards.

In response to Representative Blanton, Director Siwula said truck parking spaces will be added to rest areas and the Department of Highways will follow up with construction

needs. Representative Blanton expressed his concern that interstate highway rest areas are in need of adult changing stations.

In response to Representative Smith, Director Siwula said they begin programming projects ahead of time to facilitate the use of funds as they become available.

Representative Tackett Laferty expressed her appreciation for the recent bridge work and creation of a bypass in Floyd County. Director Siwula said the best way to check on lettings is to contact the local district office for updates.

In response to Chair Upchurch, Director Siwula said the dollars allocated to projects are based on the availability of cash on hand. Director Rigney added that the cash model has been and continues to be a good process when kept current, and the KYTC constantly monitors it.

In response to Representative Blanton, Director Siwula said they are happy to have additional discussions as the budget development process progresses.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Smith moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Douglas, and the minutes were approved without objection by voice vote.

Road Fund Standard Year-End Update

Shaun McKiernan, Budget Director, KYTC, provided an update on the Road Fund.

In response to Representative Branscum, Director McKiernan said payments to counties are on schedule as compared to last fiscal year.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM ET/10:20 AM CT.