LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 10, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee was held on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 1 p.m. ET/12 p.m. CT in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Scott Sharp, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Greg Elkins, Co-Chair; Representative Scott Sharp, Co-Chair; Senators Gerald A. Neal, Matt Nunn, and Reginald L. Thomas; Representatives Lindsey Burke, Adrielle Camuel, Matt Lockett, Steve Riley, and Tom Smith.

Guests: Rob Duncan, deputy attorney general, Office of the Attorney General (OAG); Chris Lewis, division chief for consumer and senior protection, OAG; Rachel Bayens, managing partner of Government Strategies, Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors; John Moore, deputy state highway engineer, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Jason Siwula, deputy state highway engineer, KYTC; and Shaun McKiernan, executive director, Office for Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Jacob Blevins, Austin Fraley, Christopher T. Hall, Taylor Johnston, Maegan Mohr, Jonathan Rickett, William Spears, Austin Sprinkles, Shane Stevens, Joel S. Thomas, Holly Tracy, and Olivia Walton.

Approve Minutes from August 13, 2026

Upon motion by Representative Lockett and second by Senator Nunn the minutes for the August 13, 2026, meeting were approved without objection.

Attorney General Social Media Settlement

Rob Duncan, deputy attorney general, OAG, and Chris Lewis, division chief for consumer and senior protection, OAG, presented a summary of the recent settlement between Meta and the State of Kentucky. They discussed what Kentucky received in the settlement, including added protections for children across Meta's social media platforms and at least $358 million. While 53 states and territories settled with Meta, Kentucky was in a group of four states that carried the case into trial and assisted in writing terms of the settlement. For at least five years, Meta must implement controls to ensure users are at least 13 years of age, establish time management controls for teens, change news feeds and social comparisons, and limit exposure to age-inappropriate content. Their presentation is available on the LOIC website.

Representative Lockett said he would like to see the temporary protections from the settlement codified in Kentucky law and that the General Assembly should use the funds to continue efforts to protect children on social media.

In response to Representative Camuel, Mr. Lewis said the designated auditor, who will monitor Meta's compliance with the safety enhancements in the settlement, will report to a six-state committee that will then disseminate the information to the rest of the states.

In response to Co-Chair Elkins, Mr. Lewis said Meta's soft-match technology identifies accounts with a likelihood of belonging to a single user.

Industry Discussion of Road Project Letting

Representing the Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors, Rachel Bayens, managing partner of Government Strategies, presented about recent trends with road project lettings. She stated that lettings by KYTC were lower than in previous years. As of July 2026, KYTC issued 175 lettings for $512.5 million, while the cabinet averaged over 600 projects and $1.0 billion project spending per year over the last 10 years. As the number of projects decreases, the association is concerned about retaining workers in the industry. Her presentation is available on the LOIC website.

In response to Chair Sharp, Ms. Bayens said there have been 175 projects let from the beginning of the year through July. There were additional lettings in August as well as a special letting in September, but the cabinet would know the exact numbers. She said it was reasonable to be concerned about the recent lettings being completed by the November 15 deadline, but she would get back to the committee about the nature of the work.

Representative Smith stated he believes rural road projects cannot continue relying on the general fund. He believes the fuel tax should be the primary source of funding to maintain roads.

Senator Nunn expressed concern that the decrease in lettings cuts road construction crews' hours as well as increases the likelihood that work is done hastily due to falling behind.

In response to Representative Camuel, Ms. Bayens said the inflation amounts in the presentation are calculations from the Federal Highway Administration from the National Highway Construction Cost Index, which is tied to the cost of building and maintaining roads and bridges. Weather plays a large role in the need for road repairs.

Transportation Cabinet Discussion of Road Project Letting

John Moore, deputy state highway engineer, KYTC, Jason Siwula, deputy state highway engineer, KYTC, and Shaun McKiernan, executive director, Office for Budget and Fiscal Management, KYTC, presented about recent trends with road project lettings. KYTC operates under a cash management system, as established in the biennial budget bill since 2000 RS HB 502. Since 2020, Kentucky has been required to use more state money to pay for federal construction.

Lettings have been affected by increases in maintenance costs, while fast spending projects like the Local Assistance Road Program have the quickest impact on the cash system. Their presentation can be found on the LOIC website.

In response to Chair Sharp, Mr. Moore said there were 397 road projects let by September in 2025.

In response to Representative Lockett, Mr. McKiernan said the decision to suspend the fuel tax resulted in a $20 million decrease in FY 2026 and an estimated $15 million for FY 2027.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Moore said the impact of tariffs on the cost of roads is not overt and is largely lost in overall inflationary pressures.

In response to Co-Chair Elkins, Mr. Moore attributed the decrease in this year's lettings to inflationary pressures and the projected uptick for next year's lettings to some of those funds being recovered. Mr. McKiernan said the governor has identified $18 million in replacement funds for local road projects.

In response to Chair Sharp, Mr. Moore said about 70 projects have been let in the last month excluding September's special let, but he would send a more specific number to the committee. There was a special letting in September because the Transportation Cabinet was able to move federal allocations around for more projects. There are usually one or two special lettings per year.

In response to Representative Camuel, Mr. McKiernan said the Transportation Cabinet feels comfortable with the $100 million threshold and would ideally like to increase the cash balance so they do not go below that threshold.

Announcements

In response to Chair Sharp, Committee Staff Administrator Will Spears confirmed that all budget units received a reminder on September 3, 2026 that the Operating Expenditure forms required by 2026 RS HB 500 were due on October 1, 2026.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Representative Lockett and second by Senator Nunn, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m. ET/1:43 p.m. CT.