

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2019 Interim

June 3, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 3:00 PM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Ken Upchurch, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Ernie Harris, Co-Chair; Representative Ken Upchurch, Co-Chair; Senators C.B. Embry Jr., Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Albert Robinson, Brandon Smith, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Terri Branham Clark, Al Gentry, Robert Goforth, David Hale, Chris Harris, Kathy Hinkle, Regina Huff, Thomas Huff, Derek Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Bobby McCool, Russ A. Meyer, Rick Rand, Sal Santoro, Maria Sorolis, Cherlynn Stevenson, Jim Stewart III, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Walker Thomas, and Tommy Turner.

Guests: Greg Thomas, Secretary, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Matt Henderson, Commissioner, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC, and Jason Siwula, Assistant State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC.

LRC Staff: John Snyder, Brandon White, Dana Fugazzi, and Christina Williams.

Presentation regarding Design-Build projects

Greg Thomas, Secretary, KYTC, discussed I-Move Kentucky and the Design-Build Projects, which includes an expedited approach that provides cost savings while reducing impact for priority projects. The I-Move Kentucky project objectives are to improve safety and relieve congestion on busy freight corridors, provide lower-cost solutions to build priority projects, and lessen construction impacts for local and regional travelers. The I-Move Kentucky Design-Build Project is centered around the I-265 widening project that expands I-265 to six lanes, widens the bridges, and addresses the bridge and pavement needs at an estimated cost of \$93.2 million. In addition, this design-build mega project includes three other projects. The I-71/I-265 Interchange Project adds collector and distributor lanes for I-71 southbound, and improves safety and mobility at an estimated cost of \$5.4 million. The I-71 widening project includes expanding I-71 to six lanes from I-265 to KY 329, reconstructing five bridges, and significantly reducing congestion, at an estimated cost of \$61 million. The I-64/I-265 interchange project includes reconstruction

of the major interchange to improve safety and reduce congestion at an estimated cost of \$28 million.

Secretary Thomas stated the design-build approach, which utilizes increased authorization levels established by the General Assembly in 2018 (HB 35) improves coordination during construction, accelerates projects to lower actual costs, encourages innovation and creativity from teams, and avoids bridge and pavement maintenance items. Two charts were also provided to show the six year plan's construction funds schedule and the compressed project schedule under the design-build approach for the I-71 / I-265 interchange, the I-71 widening, the I-64 / I-265 interchange, and the I-265 widening.

Senator Jimmy Higdon reiterated the need for the I-265 widening project, as well as the I-64 / I-265 interchange project. Secretary Thomas also added in response to a question asked by Senator Higdon that there are other projects in the pipeline that will utilize the design-build process.

In response to a question asked by Representative Al Gentry concerning planning to expand widening I-265 over to I-65, Secretary Thomas stated he is unsure of any immediate plans to expand the widening, however, there is a \$2 million study underway studying from I-65 over to US 31 E, to relieve the traffic from Mt. Washington. He added this problem will possibly be addressed in the next biennium.

Co-Chair Ernie Harris stated the design-build project successes are indicative of the success of the SHIFT Program. In response to a question asked by Co-Chair Harris, Secretary Thomas stated there will possibly be communication between contractors and KYTC to see what could be done in the areas which they are working in, in terms of other improvements.

Representative Maria Sorolis voiced her concerns for additional congestion traffic at I-264 and I-71 once the widening of I-71 begins.

Implementation of Selected Transportation Legislation from the 2019 Regular Session

Matt Henderson, Commissioner, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC, and Jason Siwula, Assistant State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, KYTC, updated the Committee on implementation of transportation legislation from the 2019 Regular Session. Commissioner Henderson stated House Bill 258 was passed that relates to low-speed scooters. This was a high-level bill that basically identified these vehicles and put them in a category to observe them, understand the characteristics of that mode of transportation and regulate them as well. Commissioner Henderson stated KYTC is in the observation portion relating to these vehicles.

Commissioner Henderson stated House Bill 341 passed and relates to special license plates. A moratorium was invoked on developing new specialized license plates because of a significant cost occurrence on the front end and on the back end, very few people were purchasing and registering these license plates. Therefore, the statute was changed to state any organization that wanted a specialized license plate would pay for the upfront cost for design and implementation, and then there is a threshold number of plates that would ideally be on the road for that special plate to be maintained.

Commissioner Henderson stated Senate Bill 85 passed and relates to ignition interlock devices and the Cabinet is in the beginning stages of implementing the more robust system needed to implement the bill.

House Bill 352 relates to motor carriers and the hauling of petroleum. Even though this bill will not come into effect for another two years, the Division of Motor Carriers is beginning the process of reviewing the possible routes that these hauls will be undertaking and preparing to permit those routes.

Mr. Siwula stated House Bill 244 was passed relating to speed limits in work zones, in an effort to reduce crashes in work zones to increase safety for workers as well as the traveling public. The bill added a more robust definition of work zones, including maintenance, bridge inspection, and electrical work. Mr. Siwula stated KYTC has worked internally with stakeholders in looking into updating the existing regulation to ensure it was consistent with the new language that was passed in House Bill 244. In addition to that, KYTC is looking into options for shorter-term work zones. One of the things that has been discussed was how to notify the traveling public so they would understand there are workers present. Temporary signs may be put into place for the notification.

House Bill 266 which is related to the possibility of increasing speed limits on I - 165 and the Mountain Parkway was also passed. Mr. Siwula stated as those projects come to completion, evaluations will be made to see if a speed increase is appropriate.

Chairman Ken Upchurch reminded members of the upcoming July 19, 2019 meeting in Northern Kentucky at the CVG Centre. With no other business to come before the Committee, Chairman Upchurch adjourned the meeting at 3:33 P.M.