

# INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

## Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 2023 Interim

October 17, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on October 17, 2023, at 1:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Jimmy Higdon, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative John Blanton Co-Chair; Senator Jimmy Higdon Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Jared Carpenter, Robby Mills, Brandon Smith, Brandon J. Storm, Johnnie Turner, Phillip Wheeler, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and David Yates; Representatives Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Daniel Elliott, Ken Fleming, David Hale, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Mary Beth Imes, Derek Lewis, Bobby McCool, Amy Neighbors, Ruth Ann Palumbo, Tom Smith, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Walker Thomas, Ken Upchurch, Bill Wesley, and Wade Williams.

Guests: Heather Stout, Director, Office of Information Technology, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Godwin Onodu, Director, Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing, KYTC; Sarah Coleman, Executive Director, Kentucky Horse Council; Lori Weaver Hawkins, Manager, Public and Government Affairs, American Automobile Association (AAA); Representative Mary Beth Imes, State Representative, District 5; Lori Weaver Hawkins, Manager, Public and Government Affairs, AAA.

LRC Staff: John Snyder, Dana Fugazzi, Ashley Nash, and Christina Williams.

### Approval of September 18, 2023, Minutes

The minutes from the committee's September 18, 2023, meeting were approved.

### Recognition and Moment of Silence for Judy Taylor.

Chairman Higdon recognized the passing of Judy Taylor. Ms. Taylor was a long-time lobbyist who blazed many trails for women in the legislative arena. A moment of silence was held in her honor.

### Kentucky Automobile Vehicle Information System (KAVIS) Update

Heather Stout, Director, Office of Information Technology, KYTC, updated the committee on the rollout and implementation of KAVIS. KYTC developed KAVIS as a modernized

vehicle registration and titling system to replace the Automobile Vehicle Information System (AVIS).

Ms. Stout discussed project benchmarks and noted that KAVIS is scheduled to be implemented in January 2024. Training will begin in October. In November, the cabinet will institute performance testing, user acceptance testing, and begin a public awareness campaign. The AVIS system will close on December 29, 2023 and county clerk offices will close during the transition period to KAVIS. The closure of county clerk offices may result in a backlog of work and upon opening, longer wait times.

In response to a question asked by Chairman Higdon concerning the insurance portion of KAVIS, Ms. Stout stated the mandatory insurance solution that is currently on the mainframe will remain, and KAVIS will interface with that. The current system does verify in real time if a driver has the required insurance

In response to a question asked by Co-Chair Blanton regarding concerns from trucking companies on short timelines to register vehicles in their fleet, Ms. Stout stated she was unaware of the specifics, but was willing to discuss the issue with the Kentucky Trucking Association. She also mentioned the new fleet registration law, that will take effect in 2024, should help those companies expedite registration.

### **Special License Plate Procedures**

Godwin Onodu, Director, Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing briefed the committee on special license plate procedures. A non-profit organization based in Kentucky or has a Kentucky chapter, may apply for a special license plate through the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicle Regulation. Applications are reviewed by the Special License Plate Committee. The nonprofit organization is advised to submit plate designs at least 10 business days before the scheduled Special License Plate Committee meeting.

A nonprofit organization may only sponsor one plate design. Upon approval of the nonprofit's application, the organization is invoiced \$2,500. The fee must be paid prior to plate production and the fee is applied towards programming and production costs. Upon production and circulation of the special license plate, if the number of registrations falls below 500, in two consecutive years, the plate will be discontinued. Nonprofit organizations may apply for a plate redesign after three years. Funds received by the nonprofit organization through the registration of special license plates must be deposited into its own account to allow for an accurate audit trail.

With the implementation of KAVIS, there will be 140 types of special license plates available.

In response to questions asked by Chairman Higdon, Mr. Onodu stated the cost to KYTC to produce the special license plate under the new KAVIS system is \$2,500, which is broken down and invoiced to the nonprofit organization. Previously, the administrative costs to produce a new plate was over \$50,000, and there was an application requirement of at least 900 plates.

Sarah Coleman, Executive Director, Kentucky Horse Council discussed special license plate renewal funding for nonprofit organizations. The Kentucky Horse Council is a 501c3 charity that represents all breeds and disciplines of horses. The Kentucky Horse Council sponsors the Save Our Horses Fund which provides hay and feed assistance to owners who are in short-term financial distress, assistance for horses that are confiscated due to neglect, gelding and castration assistance, and euthanasia assistance. The vast majority of the Kentucky Horse Council's budget comes from its specialty plate, which is the only specialty plate that can be purchased for both individual and farm vehicles. As of last year, approximately 21,000 Kentuckians had this plate on their vehicle.

Under KRS 186.162, organizations or programs with a specialty plate receive a small extra fee at the time of initial registration and upon the annual renewal. For most organizations, those fees are equal (\$10 for registration fee and \$10 for renewal). The Kentucky Horse Council is one of six organizations that receives \$10 at registration and \$5 at renewal. The other five organizations are former prisoner of war (POWs) and survivors of Pearl Harbor; Child Victims Trust Fund; spay/neuter; I Support Veterans; and Gold Star siblings, sons, or daughters. Ms. Coleman stated the Kentucky Horse Council along with the other organizations are losing substantial funds from the renewal fee discrepancy, and requested that all nonprofit organizations receive the same renewal fee amount of \$10.

Chairman Higdon stated in order to correct the discrepancy there would have to be legislation adopted to add an additional \$5 fee added to the cost of these plate renewals.

### **Third Party Issuance of Identity Documents**

Lori Weaver Hawkins, Manager, Public and Government Affairs, American Automobile Association (AAA) briefed the committee on AAA and advocated for AAA to have the ability to issue identity documents to Kentucky citizens. Ms. Hawkins stated AAA has

two clubs in Kentucky; AAA Club Alliance (ACA), and Auto Club Enterprises (ACE), which combined have over 640,000 members in Kentucky, served through eight offices.

Ms. Weaver Hawkins stated that AAA provides some level of Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) services in 23 states. AAA also serves as a third-party vendor for other services, such as a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) pre-check service, IDEMIA identity related security, and is willing and able to act as a third-party representative to assist KYTC in issuing operator's licenses and ID cards.

In response to questions asked by Chairman Higdon, Ms. Weaver Hawkins stated a small fee is attached to acquiring identity documents through AAA.

### **Expansion of Kentucky's "Move Over" Law**

Representative Mary Beth Imes, District 5, spoke to the committee about the expansion of Kentucky's "move over" law. Representative Imes stated the proposed legislation is a slow down and move over bill for motorists who may pass a vehicle that is pulled off of the road for any reason, to have the motorists passing the stopped vehicle slow down, or move over whenever it is safe to do so, in order to allow for safe distancing between the vehicles.

Ms. Weaver Hawkins provided safety statistics for these situations. AAA has been instrumental in passing slow down or move over laws in all 50 states. Kentucky's current move over law applies to mostly everyone, except stranded motorists. Representative Imes' proposed bill would include those motorists. Currently 19 states have now included stranded motorists to be covered in their move over laws since AAA launched their inclusion effort.

In response to a question by Senator Yates, Ms. Weaver Hawkins stated the law would include moving over, only if it is safe to do so.

In response to a question asked by Senator Berg, Ms. Weaver Hawkins stated she, as a AAA representative, has the mission to educate the public on the new law if it is enacted. She added media outreach is crucial in accomplishing this goal.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Higdon adjourned the meeting at 2:02 P.M.