

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

October 14, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on October 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative John Blanton, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative John Blanton, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Greg Elkins, Brandon Smith, Brandon J. Storm, Phillip Wheeler, Gex Williams, and Mike Wilson; and Representatives Ryan Bivens, Josh Branscum, Randy Bridges, Anne Gay Donworth, Myron Dossett, Daniel Elliott, David Hale, John Hodgson, Thomas Huff, Mary Beth Imes, Matthew Lehman, Bobby McCool, Amy Neighbors, Rachel Roarx, Tom Smith, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Walker Thomas, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Jason Siwula, Deputy State Highway Engineer, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Major Emily Horton, Director, Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Kentucky State Police (KSP); Matt Cole, Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicle Regulation, KYTC; and Dustin Miller, Legislative Agent, State Farm Insurance.

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

Approval of September 16, 2025, Minutes

Senator Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting. Senator Wheeler seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

Rest Areas

Jason Siwula, Deputy State Highway Engineer, KYTC, discussed the eight welcome centers, 14 rest areas, and four truck havens co-located with weigh stations in the Commonwealth. The maintenance cost of these areas has increased 46 percent since fiscal year (FY) 2021. A 2022 truck parking assessment showed an increase in parking demand of 24 percent since 2012, spurred by hours of service limitations, electronic logging of driver's hours, and fewer truck drivers. Unmet parking demand and existing truck parking supply were discussed. A truck parking action plan was discussed that includes a truck parking expansion at 11 sites, including sites in Woodford, Simpson, Bullitt, Oldham, Boone, Scott, and Whitley counties.

Chair Blanton reiterated the need for more truck parking and touched on challenges faced in trying to accomplish that goal. In response to Chair Blanton, Mr. Siwula stated the 820 total parking spaces listed at public rest areas reference marked spaces only. He will investigate the role local governments play in truck parking and if they are assisting in any way.

In response to Senator Berg, Mr. Siwula stated he is unsure of the role that autonomous vehicles play in the future for truck parking, but that any real effects would be many years away.

In response to Representative Thomas, Mr. Siwula stated Buc-ees convenience stores and filling stations generally do not market to commercial motor vehicles, and they have not yet looked at a correlation between rest area traffic and convenience stores located close to them.

In response to Representative Donworth, Mr. Siwula stated truck parking across Kentucky's boarder states was studied along with parking within the Commonwealth as it all works together as a network. In response to a follow-up question, Mr. Siwula stated the major economic benefit to establishing truck parking in Kentucky, rather than across a state border, would be to have those facilities nearer to centers of economic activity in the Commonwealth.

Representative Roarx shared her past experience while working in local government. Truckers in the Louisville area tend to park in residential areas as those fines are less expensive than paying to park in private sector lots.

Representative Bivens stated truck drivers keep the economy flourishing, and consumers enjoy buying things at a cheaper cost. If a cost is added to truck drivers for parking, that cost will eventually be added to the consumer.

Senator Berg suggested the use of public private partnerships as other states have utilized to eliminate some cost to the Commonwealth. Chair Blanton shared that the proceeds from rest area vending machines go to the Department of the Blind.

Weigh Stations

Major Emily Horton, Director, Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, KSP; and Matt Cole, Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicle Regulation, KYTC, discussed weigh stations. Kentucky's weigh stations are staffed with North American Standard Inspection trained personnel. The inspectors are critical in assisting KSP in ensuring highway safety, and detecting cargo theft, illegal drug transportation, impaired driving, and human trafficking. Major Horton described the inspection process from start to finish, highlighting

safety checks and the verification of proper records.

In response to Senator Berg, Major Horton stated they work bypass routes when they can, and transponders are in use as well.

In response to Representative Thomas, Major Horton suggested calling a close KSP post, or any local law enforcement post, if an observer notices a potentially dangerous situation.

In response to Senator Williams, Major Horton stated more staffing resources would help keep weigh stations open more often.

In response to Senator Storm, Major Horton stated the ramp full signs on I-75 and I-71 in northern Kentucky have the ability to automatically shut the scale off when it detects that the ramp is full. However, she is unsure of every weigh stations ability to automatically shut the scale off when the ramp is full. Senator Storm stated in Laurel County the ramps are being backed up and some drivers are bypassing that station because they feel it is unsafe to stop in the middle of the interstate and they are getting cited for it.

Commissioner Cole stated KSP personnel are the boots on the ground and KYTC personnel plays a support role in the operation of weigh stations. KYTC helps with International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and International Registration Plan (IRP) fees. He stated if a driver gets pulled over who has not paid their taxes and is grounded, KSP will reach out to KYTC to make sure those fees are paid.

Highway Workzone Cameras (2025 RS HB 664)

Chair Blanton discussed the implementation of 2025 RS HB 664, which he sponsored. The bill allows the use of automated speed enforcement devices, with real-time citation issuance, in highway work zones. Chair Blanton informed the committee that signs are going up in work zones and KYTC will present on the program at the November meeting.

Salvage Motor Vehicle Titles (2026 RS BR 279)

Representative Huff spoke on his sponsored bill, 2026 RS BR 279, with Dustin Miller, Legislative Agent, State Farm Insurance. This bill would amend KRS 186A.295 to exclude the cost of parts and labor to make repairs to a motor vehicle from the cost of repair calculation for the required surrender of the certificate of title for a motor vehicle or trailer that has been destroyed.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Representative Huff stated the title is already branded "hail" to indicate the vehicle has hail damage, however, the insurance company will not distribute the title.

In response to Chair Blanton, Representative Huff stated BR 279 would not create a clean title for those vehicles.

In response to Representative Tackett Laferty, BR 279 would not be retroactive and would only apply moving forward.

In response to Representative Bridges, BR 279 may theoretically affect older cars more than newer vehicles, and the 75 percent threshold is met by repairs from a single claim.

Representative Dossett stated BR 279 would not only benefit dealerships but individuals. They would be able to buy back totaled vehicles to have them repaired, and keep the vehicle and have a title on the vehicle.

In response to Senator Douglas, Representative Huff stated there would still be a disclosure that there may be functional defects with the vehicle, and BR 279 in no way indicates that functional safety parts of a vehicle have been replaced or repaired.

Representative Smith expressed his support for the bill.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

Jon Johnson, Assistant General Counsel, KYTC, discussed 601 KAR 023:070 Emergency. This administrative regulation establishes procedures for inspection, registration, operation, and compliance of street-legal special purpose (SLSPVs) on designated public roadways in Kentucky. The regulation was filed in response to the passage of 2025 RS SB 63 and was not found to be deficient nor deferred.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, Chair Blanton adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.