INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the 2026 Interim

October 6, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on October 6, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET/12:00 PM CT 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; Senator Jimmy Higdon, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Greg Elkins, Brandon J. Storm, Phillip Wheeler, Gex Williams, and Mike Wilson; and Representatives Ryan Bivens, Josh Branscum, Anne Gay Donworth, Myron Dossett, Daniel Elliott, David Hale, Samara Heavrin, John Hodgson, Thomas Huff, Mary Beth Imes, Matthew Lehman, Bobby McCool, Amy Neighbors, Tom Smith, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Walker Thomas, and Ken Upchurch.

Guests: Logan Hanes, Executive Director, Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute; Ryan Fisher, Executive Director, Department of Highway Safety, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Jay Postlewaite, Branch Manager, Division of Incident Management, KYTC; Jeremy Slinker, Deputy Secretary, KYTC; Heather Stout, Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, KYTC; and Will Fogle, General Counsel, KYTC.

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

Approval of September 1, 2026 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Douglas and seconded by Representative Bivens, to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Introduction of Special Guests

Representative Huff introduced the Sherriff of Bullitt County, Walt Sholar. Chair Blanton introduced the newly appointed Deputy Secretary of KYTC, James Ballinger, and the new Legislative Liaison for KYTC, Elissa Fochtman.

Mobile Home Titling

Mr. Hanes briefed the committee on the mobile home industry and titling. He requested help in bringing Kentucky's manufactured home definitions and related procedures into alignment with federal law as it relates to the removal of the home's chassis. He also requested for a clear path to be established from lawful financing to recorded ownership and a properly perfected lien by aligning with federal and state home lending law. Lastly, he requested keeping the homeowner and the people responsible for completing these transactions involved in the overall process.

In response to Chair Blanton, Mr. Hanes stated there was a concern but misconception on the use of an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), as the ITIN was not listed in the language that was proposed. Instead, the language brought Kentucky law into compliance with federal home lending law.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Mr. Hanes stated distinctions could be made on the current titles to show the title is for a manufactured home and does not have mileage.

In response to Co-Chair Higdon, Mr. Hanes stated under fair housing lending law, the applicant must be of legal status. Co-Chair Higdon stated the correct documentation needed for identification has been in question for some time.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Hanes stated there is now very little difference between a modular home and a manufactured home, as the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) code for manufactured houses has been revised so often they are on an even playing field, and most manufacturers build both.

In response to a follow up from Senator Williams, Mr. Hanes stated every stage of construction on manufactured homes at the factory level is being inspected by third party HUD inspectors. He added Kentucky is always ranked highly with HUD manufactured homes in the state, but because of the process needed for modular home inspection, Kentucky has many more manufactured homes than modular homes.

Highway Safety Programs

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Postlewaite briefed the committee on highway safety programs. A highway fatality summary was shared, as well as work zone camera statistics and initiatives. Educational programs were discussed including information about occupant protection, young drivers, and impaired and distracted driving. The Safe Kentucky Teen Driver Challenge was discussed as well as incident management, and transportation operations centers.

In response to Representative Thomas concerning the traffic accident death decrease, Mr. Fisher stated autonomous vehicles are aiding in that decrease.

Co-Chair Higdon continued to encourage driver hands-free legislation.

In response to Senator Berg, Mr. Fisher stated there are driver safety programs offered through their office and through the Kentucky State Police, but those are not necessarily requirements to receive a driver's permit or license, but it would help if those programs were requirements.

In response to Representative Donworth, Mr. Fisher stated that while the KYTC website is monitored for messages regarding traffic issues, it is not the cabinet's primary source of information with regard to clearing debris or fixing potholes. Typically, action has already been taken by reporting via phone calls or law enforcement on these urgent issues.

In response to Senator Douglas, Mr. Fisher stated they do not have any statistics on the percentage of crash victims that could have been resuscitated.

Driver Licensing

Deputy Secretary Slinker and Ms. Stout briefed the committee on the Kentucky Information Network for Driver Licensing (KINDL) and driver licensing regional offices. Positive feedback is being received in both areas.

Chair Blanton, Co-Chair Higdon, and several other legislators praised efforts in both areas. Co-Chair Higdon mentioned benefits of having the permit test as well as the driver skill test available at the local level.

In response to Chair Blanton, Deputy Secretary Slinker stated mobile access to identification is only being recognized as an acceptable form of ID in very few states and most states still require a hard copy.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

Co-Chair Higdon brought attention to the timing of legislation passed and when administrative regulations are implemented within KYTC.

Mr. Fogle and Ms. Stout then discussed 601 KAR 012:130, concerning third-party issuance of identity documents. No further action was taken.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.