

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W015 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Fred R. Hunsaker
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Paul A. Neuenschwander
Rep. LaWanna Lou Shurtliff

Members Excused:

Rep. Todd E. Kiser, House Chair
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. Ed Mayne
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Mark W. Walker

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark B. Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Mr. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Rep. Daw called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

Mr. Steinagel gave an update on the REAL ID Act of 2005 and noted that there are several bills pending in Congress on this issue. Mr. Steinagel said two of the pending bills would repeal the Act, one would extend the implementation requirements so that states would have more time to comply, and another would provide funds for implementation.

2. House Bill 166, "Transportation Revisions" (2007 Annual General Session)

Rep. Wayne A. Harper commented on the provisions of 2007 General Session H.B. 166, "Transportation Revisions." Rep. Harper noted that the bill proposed putting UTA (Utah Transit Authority) under the administration of the Utah Department of Transportation.

Rep. Curtis Oda spoke in favor of the legislation.

Mr. Orrin Colby, President, Board of Trustees, Mr. Michael Allegra, Assistant General Manager, and Mr. Bruce Jones, General Counsel, UTA, distributed and discussed materials in a folder including "UTA Structure and Operations," "How Current UTA Governance Works," and "Management System Matrix 2007." Mr. Colby said there are issues in the bill as presented which would need to be looked at carefully and rewritten. Mr. Colby, Mr. Allegra and Mr. Jones responded to questions from the Committee.

Chair Walker invited public comment.

Mr. Bill Tibbitts, Director, Anti-Hunger Action Committee, commented on some advantages of increasing UTA riders through marketing as a way to increase revenue, instead of raising fares.

Mr. Douglas Cotant, Anti-Hunger Action Committee, expressed opposition to some of the UTA route changes in downtown Salt Lake City.

Ms. Nichole Christensen, Lead Organizer, University Student Staff Transit Coalition, and student, University of Utah, spoke in opposition to the removal of some UTA routes serving the University of Utah.

Ms. Ricki Landers, citizen, spoke in opposition to the proposed increase in UTA fares.

Ms. Debbie Grizzle, citizen, spoke in opposition to proposed UTA route changes on Main Street in Salt Lake City.

Ms. Tammi Diaz, citizen, spoke in opposition to the proposed elimination of stops along the UTA route.

Ms. Dawn McLachlan, Access Utah, said that increased access to UTA is necessary to people who are dependent upon public transportation.

On behalf of Mr. Michael Packard, citizen, Mr. William Bowen spoke in favor of the legislation.

3. Motor Fuel Tax

This item was not discussed.

4. Foster Parent Signature for Driver License

Rep. David Litvak introduced 2007 General Session H.B. 213, "Driver License - Application of Minor." He noted that the purpose of the discussion was to address clarifying language in the bill to provide that a foster parent or responsible adult would be able to sign the application for a foster child to receive a driver license, and to add language to include a stipend or reimbursement for the cost of automobile insurance to those parents or adults.

Mr. Duane Betournay, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, spoke in support of the legislation.

Ms. Maryanne McFarland, foster parent and employee of the Utah Foster Care Foundation, spoke in support of the legislation.

Ms. Stephanie Elliss, foster parent and President, Utah Foster Family Association, Utah, spoke in support of the legislation and responded to questions from the Committee.

Ms. Halverson explained that a foster parent would have the right to revoke their signature, and thus, the driver license of the foster child if that foster child were to leave their home.

Mr. Chris Purcell, State Farm Insurance, responded to questions regarding liability issues.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Clark, Rep. Holdaway and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.