

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Bradley M. Daw, House Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Kraig Powell

Rep. Holly J. Richardson
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Members Absent:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Val L. Peterson

Staff Present:

Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Ms. 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

Chair Daw called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting. Rep. Kiser, Rep. Powell, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

2. Operation of Trucks on Graded Roadways

Captain Barton Blair, Utah Highway Patrol, distributed "R920 Transportation, Operations, Traffic and Safety." Captain Blair referred to the handout, as well as "Chain Up Tips: Guide to Colorado's Chain Law," which was distributed in the mailing packet. Captain Blair discussed possible solutions to the periodic closure of I-15 due to weather related obstructions on roadways, and said that the rule seems sufficient for the installation of regulatory signs in places where chains would be necessary for safe travel while keeping roads open.

Ms. Linda Hull, Director, Legislative and Government Affairs, Utah Department of Transportation, noted that updates to the rule are currently in process.

3. Federal Highway Program Update

Ms. Hull updated committee members on the Federal Highway Program. She discussed federal funding, the current allocation of federal funds, and the possibility of a reduction in funding in the new fiscal year.

4. Helmets to Hard Hats

Sen. Mayne introduced Mr. Darrell Roberts, Executive Director, Helmets to Hardhats, who distributed "Helmets to Hardhats" and the pamphlet, "Defend, Now Build America." Mr. Roberts updated committee members on the growth and success of the program, Helmets to Hardhats, which helps veterans make the transition from the military to a career in the construction industry.

Mr. Kevin Cote, volunteer, Helmets to Hardhats, gave details about a tour of the training facilities available to veterans, to take place Thursday morning, July 21, 2011. Committee members were invited to attend.

5. Regulation of Fuel Manufactured and Sold in Utah

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson briefed committee members on a proposal that would include the drilling, production, sale, and use of motor fuel within the state, not subject to federal regulations, to potentially increase the supply of motor fuel and lower its price in Utah.

Mr. Jay Larson, citizen, distributed and presented "Utah Energy Independence" and responded to committee members' questions.

Ms. Halverson noted that the theory of not allowing the federal government to regulate wholly intrastate commerce is currently under consideration in the courts and is not currently interpreted as a viable theory by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Lee Peacock, President, Utah Petroleum Association, observed some difficult requirements that would be necessary to implement the proposal, such as separate tanks for Utah supplied oil at refineries and gas stations and the transport of the oil.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Registration of Trailers of 750 Pounds or Less Unladen Weight

Mr. Elder explained that registration for light trailers is not required in Utah but is required in some surrounding states. Mr. Elder reviewed trailer statutes of some other states and introduced for discussion the pros and cons of issuance of a permanent license plate and reciprocity of registration with states around Utah.

Mr. Barry Conover, Executive Director, Utah State Tax Commission, indicated that the Commission is open and able to administer any decision of the Legislature.

Mr. Kevin Park, Assistant Director, Department of Motor Vehicles, commented on options the owner of a trailer might choose including a standard registration and an annual property tax on the trailer or a permanent license similar to a vintage vehicle license. Mr. Park said that consideration of a reciprocity agreement with other states should include some benefit to the neighboring state.

Committee discussion followed. No action was taken on this item.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Daw adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.