

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley M. Daw, House Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. Stewart Barlow
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Bradley G. Last

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Members Absent:

Rep. Janice M. Fisher

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 Van Tassell called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. and excused Rep. Fisher from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting. Sen. Jenkins, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Frank, Rep. Peterson, Rep. Powell, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

2. Utah's Unified Transportation Plan 2011 - 2040

Mr. Andrew Gruber, Executive Director, Wasatch Front Regional Council, distributed "Utah's Unified Transportation Plan 2011-2040." Mr. Gruber acknowledged some of the organizations that contributed to the plan, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Utah Transportation Commission, Utah League of Cities and Towns, Association of Counties, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and the Utah Transit Authority.

Mr. Andrew Jackson, Executive Director, Association of Governments, presented Utah's Unified Transportation Plan to the committee. He discussed the existing transportation network in the state and the process of planning new transportation projects.

3. Operation and Management of State Aircraft

Mr. Elder distributed and presented "Aeronautics Division – Performance Audit." He indicated that the audit took place in 2008.

Mr. Carlos Bracerros, Deputy Director, UDOT, distributed and reviewed "Administration and Use of State Aircraft: Program Efficiencies" and highlighted changes implemented since the audit. Mr. Bracerros also distributed and commented on "Use of State Aircraft" and "Utah Airports."

Mr. Pat Morley, Director of Division of Aeronautics, UDOT, responded to committee members' questions about safety and the economic viability of maintaining aircraft for state use.

Col. Dan Fuhr, Utah Highway Patrol (UHP), noted some ways the UHP uses state aircraft for surveillance, transport of prisoners, and search missions. Col. Fuhr also commented on the use of UHP helicopters.

Dr. David Patton, Executive Director, Department of Health, discussed the cost savings of having access to state aircraft, which enables the department to provide mobile rural clinics in the state more frequently than would otherwise be possible.

Mr. Lynn Hinrichs, Assistant Director, Department of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM), stated that video conferencing for meetings with contractors and architects, as well as access to other aircraft, has lessened the need of DFCM to use state aircraft.

Chair Van Tassell turned the gavel over to Rep. Daw.

4. Railroad Access to Uintah Basin

Sen. Van Tassell introduced the issue of finding a way of transporting the rich supply of natural resources, such as oil, out of the Uintah Basin.

Commissioner Mike McKee, Uintah County, noted the amount of natural gas contained within the Uintah Basin and said that the only means of transport in and out of the basin is Highway 40. He asked the committee to consider future development of rail, or some other means of transport, for exporting valuable resources.

Mr. John Thomas, Director of Transportation Planning, UDOT, distributed and discussed "Phase I – Uintah Economic Study" and responded to committee members' questions.

Committee discussion followed.

Chair Daw returned the gavel to Sen. Van Tassell.

5. Federal Highway Program Update

Ms. Linda Hull, Director, Legislative and Government Affairs, UDOT, presented "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Federal Highway Program Update." Ms. Hull reviewed the major themes of the Federal Highway Program legislation and ways in which it will impact the state.

6. Local Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund

Rep. Last discussed the provisions of 2013 General Session draft legislation "Local Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund Amendments" (2013FL-0125/002), which was distributed in the mailing packet., then he responded to committee members' questions.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to recommend 2013 General Session draft legislation "Local Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund Amendments" (2013FL-0125/002) as a committee bill. The motion passed with Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Handy, Rep. Kiser, and Rep. Moss absent for the vote.

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7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Barlow moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Handy, Rep. Kiser, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

Chair Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.