

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 20, 2001 – 10:00 a.m. – Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David H. Steele,
Senate Chair
Rep. Joseph G. Murray,
House Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ed Mayne
Sen. Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Gerry A. Adair
Rep. Don E. Bush
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Max W. Young

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen,
Research Analyst
Ms. Cherylann S. Felt,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Committee Business

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Bush moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Eastman, Sen. Hale, and Rep. Young absent for the vote.

2. Light Rail/Commuter Rail Update

John English, Utah Transit Authority (UTA), showed a video on the University light rail line construction project. He discussed other light rail projects and the commuter rail project. He distributed and discussed documents "Status Report on Light Rail/Commuter Rail" and "University Light Rail Project Stakeholder Schedule Review."

Hal Clyde, Transportation Commission, asked Mr. English to address the issue of the Intermodal Center location. Mr. English explained that interested parties seem to be comfortable with its original designated location at 600 West 200 South.

3. Major Highway Reconstruction Projects

John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), reported that the I-15 reconstruction project is almost complete. He said the Legacy Parkway project will be the next flagship project for UDOT. He noted that the design work, construction activities, and utility work are on schedule. He also explained that a lawsuit is pending on this project and it is anticipated that the court date will be July 26.

He reported on numerous projects underway within the Centennial Highway Program which was instigated in 1997, and included funding for the I-15 reconstruction project and 41 other projects throughout the state. He said all projects contained within the program are on schedule. He noted that four projects were added that were not funded during the 1997-2000 time frame and the completion of those projects still leaves approximately \$2 billion worth of work that is beyond 2007. He explained each of the four projects.

I-80 reconstruction from I-15 to the mouth of Parleys Canyon is the first project. He pointed out that \$10 million has been spent to retrofit a number of structures on I-80 which were decaying the same as on I-15. These structures have been retrofitted to make them seismically safe for earthquakes but this is only a temporary fix and eventually the entire length will need reconstruction. He estimated the cost at approximately \$900 million.

Mr. Njord said the next project is I-15 from 600 North in Salt Lake City to Centerville. He said an additional lane in each direction has been added but that it is only a temporary fix. The estimated cost for the permanent expansion is \$838 million.

U.S. Highway 89 in Davis County and Weber County, referred to as the Mountain Road, is the next project and will require an additional \$210 million to complete. He said the Cherry Hill project and Cornia Drive are currently underway on that road.

Mr. Njord said the last of the four added projects is SR-201 (2100 South Freeway) from the Jordan River to the Bangerter Highway. This project will cost approximately \$100 million. He said the current funding stream is not sufficient to take on the load to fund these projects.

Mr. Njord mentioned several other projects that will require additional funding in the future. He said that I-15 construction has stopped at 10600 South and reconstruction will soon have to continue south to alleviate the bottleneck there. There is a project on 11400 South that will improve access to the south part of the valley, but it too is involved in legal battles. He added that many urban and rural areas are in need of improvement to their transportation systems.

He said it is anticipated that a freeway-type facility will be built at the 5600 West corridor in the future and property acquisitions are being funded from the Corridor Preservation Fund. In Utah County, I-15, as well as east/west and parallel routes, have major needs that will reach

critical mass very soon. A beltway for Washington County is also needed. He said in Tooele County, SR-36 and other highways need more attention. Safety improvements on US Highway 6 between Spanish Fork and Green River are still needed even though the department has recently spent \$100 million in Centennial Highway Funds in that effort. In Emery County, SR-10 needs an estimated \$110 million in improvements where trucks are hauling coal.

Mr. Njord emphasized that this is only a sampling of the needs. He said intermodal transportation should continue to be supported and pursued.

James Woodruff, City Engineer - West Jordan, expressed concern about the western transportation corridor. He said an environmental document, with respect to the alignment of the corridor, is needed as soon as possible so that a plan can be drawn up for study.

4. Digital Driver License Update

Judy Hamaker Mann, Driver License Division, updated the committee on the online renewal of driver licenses. She said the division will be ready to pilot test online renewal in July and will use the eUtah system. She said the \$4 transaction fee will initially be absorbed by the division, but she would like direction as to who should pay the fees in the future.

Bart Blackstock, Driver License Division, discussed the digital driver license project. He said the division is behind schedule on its implementation. He addressed funding for the project and said that the division needs no additional funding at the present time. He also said there are problems with the acceptance testing but a test pilot will take place in July in the commercial driver license facility. He said statewide rollout of the system is projected to be November 9, 2001. He passed several samples of different types of digital licenses for committee members to view.

5. Other Committee Business

None

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 11:42 a.m. Rep. Hogue and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

