

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & NATIONAL GUARD
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Room W010, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Thursday, January 26, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Scott Jenkins, Co-Chair
Rep. David Ure, Co-Chair
Sen. Fred Fife
Sen. Michael Waddoups
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

STAFF PRESENT: Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst
Rosemary Young, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and copy of handouts are filed with committee minutes.

Rep. Ure called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Donnelson absent for the vote.

Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst, explained a handout on mineral lease distribution to Utah counties thru UDOT for FY 2002 - 2005. This represents 40% of the total mineral lease distribution. There was discussion concerning use of mineral lease funds by the counties. The analyst explained HB1007 of the special session which authorized a bond for \$4,500,000 for a veterans' nursing home contingent on federal funds being approved and made available. Col. Scott Olsen, Utah National Guard, advised the committee that there are veterans waiting for openings at the nursing home. Rep. Hardy was given an assignment to write a letter asking permission to open a bill file to extend the repeal date on HB1007.

Department of Transportation

The analyst reviewed the intent language of the Maintenance Management Budget Brief. He also discussed the need for \$1,000,000 from the Transportation Fund for additional funds to cover increased fuel costs for all DOT maintenance activities.

Carlos, Braceras, DOT, answered questions concerning use of bio-diesel. There was discussion of the possible advantages of bio-diesel. There was also discussion concerning the need for

newer vehicles which are more efficient. David Creer, Utah Trucking Association, mentioned the 07 EPA mandate on diesel engines which adds significantly to their cost.

The analyst discussed the need for an increase in the maintenance budget due to inflation and an increase of 342.9 lane miles throughout the state. This increase in surface area includes shoulders and additional lanes.

The Maintenance Management System Issue Brief was presented with a discussion of the outdated computer equipment which is presently in use dating from 1992. The intent of the department is to buy a commercial product and to upgrade it as needed. The challenges of phase funding were discussed and the time lapse involved in getting a new system implemented.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to authorize the chairs to request \$3,000,000 one-time money from the Transportation Fund for the proposed Maintenance Management System to be non-lapsing. The motion passed with Rep. Cox voting in opposition.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to accept the analyst's recommendation for the DOT Operations Management Budget of \$2,000,000 from the Transportation Fund and \$600,000 in FY2006 and \$1,200,000 ongoing funding in FY2007 from the Transportation Fund for fuel increases, and the following intent language:

It is the intent of the Legislature that any and all collections or cash income from the sale or salvage of land and buildings are to be lapsed to the Transportation Fund.

There is appropriated to the Department of Transportation from the Transportation Fund, not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient, but not more than the surplus of the Transportation Fund, to be used by the Department for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of State highways in Utah. It is the intent of the Legislature that the appropriation fund first, a maximum participation with the federal government for the construction of federally designated highways, as provided by law, and last the construction of State highways, as funding permits. It is also the intent of the Legislature that the FTEs for field crews may be adjusted to accommodate the increase or decrease in the Federal construction Program. No portion of the money appropriated by this item shall be used either directly or indirectly to enhance or increase the appropriations otherwise made by this act to the Department of Transportation for other purposes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carlos Braseras, DOT, answered questions concerning sources of funds for the department: state gas tax, federal gas tax, and vehicle registration. In FY05 the total was just over

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\$398,000,000. Of that \$241,600,000 came from motor fuel and \$93,000,000 from special fuel or diesel, and \$30,000,000 from vehicle registration. Linda Hull, DOT, answered questions concerning various sources of federal funding of highways and federal earmarking of funds.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Rep. David Ure, Co-Chair

Sen. Scott Jenkins, Co-Chair