TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

*Riverside Hotel – Liberty Room*

*IAC Midwinter Conference ~ Boise, ID*

*Wednesday, February 8, 2017 ~ 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM*

MEETING MINUTES

8:00 AM **Call to Order - Chair, Doug Zenner, Nez Perce County Commissioner**

* Welcome and Introductions
* Approval of September 2016 Meeting Minutes

**Gordon Cruickshank made a motion to approve the minutes from September 2016. Scott Hancock seconded. Motion carried.**

* Transportation Policy Statement Review – Form Working Group

Statement is good.

8:05 AM **LHTAC – Jeff Miles, Administrator**

Jeff Miles stated that the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) is working on over legal trucking. What is over legal? Over legal vehicles have length up to75 feet, width is approx. 8.5 feet, and weight 105,500lbs on the local system (80K on the state highway).

Local jurisdictions have to provide off tracking, which are guidelines based on the roadway characteristics. The county has to look at how the truck will work with the roadway and determine how the permit will be utilized. Sometimes a truck may need a pilot car depending on the truck specifics. Locals need to examine the condition of the pavement and gravel roads. In doing this the roads will need to marked according to the limitations of the road.

The locals also need to examine safety of the roads and looking at the crash history can do this. If the county determines that the route is able to handle over legal trucks a public hearing needs to be held. In this hearing a resolution needs to be passed to allow the passage of over legal vehicles.

There are two types of permits, 1) Non-reducible and 2) Reducible (annual permits). LHTAC has written a guide to assist with writing permits. LTHAC can come to your county if you need help in the permitting process.

With the new rules that were passed, you can now enter into an agreement with ITD to issue permits based upon the Local Highway Jurisdiction’s (LHJ) designation. This can be positive (low cost and LHJ is still in control) and negative (none).

In this agreement you decide which roads are permitted. If there is an issue, you can terminate the agreement and retain the permitting process. This updated permitting process will show the map the truck is allowed to drive on. If they are pulled over, an officer will be able to review the map and give citation if the truck is not on designated route.

Gordon Cruickshank stated that when you talk about these permits, are you talking about 129K or any over legal? Jeff Miles said that it is all over legal and that counties should be writing a permit for all local roads. The state permits only covers their roads. Laila Kral mentioned that LHTAC is working to establish a class to educate the locals on how to designate roads.

Gordon Cruickshank stated that Valley County has a lot of construction and logging trucks. So, how do we plan for all of this? With all of this, how do you designate roads? Jeff Miles said that you have to identified issues that may come up and when the studies have been done, the routes will be designated. The locals will have the control to determine which routes they are ok with. We need to have good governing. There may be a specific annual non-reducible permit to address the issues you are concerned about.

8:35 AM **State Legislative Update - Senator Bert Brackett and Representative Kauffman**

Senator Brackett mentioned that there was testimony in committee that a trucker said he purchased his state permit and then said he could go anywhere he wanted and this is not a good thing. We need to make sure everyone knows where he or she are and are not allowed to drive.

The surplus eliminator money currently goes to the state. The legislature is facing the issue of walking away from everything or compromising. There are proposals looking at extending the sunset date for the surplus eliminator and having a 60-40 split with the locals. Other proposals include looking at raising revenue with hybrid vehicles and state police revenue sharing reallocation.

The winter that we have had has sparked conversation about the significant issues we will face in our infrastructure. We are looking at possibly increasing the fuel tax with a termination of the increase if the fuel rose to $3/gal or more.

Representative Kauffman stated that surplus eliminator extension would possibly be for 2 years and would be administered through LTHAC (this would be a project base grant process). LTHAC has the applications and so this would be a good fit. The house chairman has given some push back. We are just waiting for a hearing.

Doug Zenner asked why the legislature is not looking at a 50-50% split with the locals and Rep. Kauffman stated that the locals would be lucky to get the 40%.

Roger Morley asked how much money is projected to be in the surplus. Sen. Brackett stated that he believes there was a little over $10M last year.

Jacob Greenburg mentioned that prior to the fuel tax increase; Blaine County tried to pass a levy to help with our infrastructure. One-time money helps a little but a steady stream of money is needed to maintain our infrastructure. Our county would rather see a raise in the fuel tax than the surplus eliminator, as this would give that steady stream.

Phil Lambert asked why go through the grant process and not a formula process. Rep. Kauffman stated that the legislature would like to see the grant process because otherwise some areas could end up with more money than others and that may not cover the projects that need help. The money would be available around July 1st 2017.

8:55 AM **Federal Transportation Update – Peter Stegner, Senator Crapo Office**

Peter Stegnar mentioned that there is a big push for transportation in the capital right now. We are looking at 2018 and 2019. Looking forward, President Trump has said that he wants to do a bill transportation bill. There is talk that the bill may be around $1 trillion. We are watching the private-public relationships. We are asking them to make sure they include funding to create these relationships. There may be some tax reform to pay for the package. Outside of funding we are trying to streamline regulations. We are looking at cutting some and make compliance easier.

9:15 AM **Open Comments**

Jacob Greenberg stated the committee should contact their legislators now if we all feel that a fuel tax increase is necessary. Gordon Cruickshank mentioned that the task force looked at future funding and when the report was reviewed, the responses I got back were amazing. Our people don’t know what has actually been done and what can be done with a few cents gathered.

**Jacob Greenberg made a motion recommend a support to the legislative committee of fuel tax increase. Roger Morley seconded. Motion carried.**

**Don Ebert made a motion recommend a support to the legislative committee of the 60-40 split on the surplus eliminator. Jacob Greenberg seconded. Motion carried.**

9:30 AM **Adjourn**

Members Present:

Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner, Chair

Jacob Greenberg, Blaine Commissioner, Vice Chair

Glenn Bailey, Bonner Commissioner

Greg Shenton, Clark Commissioner

Dwight Davis, Cassia Assessor

Jordon Stoddard, Fremont Commissioner

Skip Brandt, Idaho Commissioner

Gordon Cruickshank, Valley Commissioner

Roger Morley, Jerome Commissioner

Joe Merrick, Owyhee Commissioner

Bryce Somsen, Caribou Commissioner

Denis Duman Idaho Commissioner

Bryon Reed, Bonneville Commissioner

Tim Darrington, Cassia Commissioner

Scott Hancock, Jefferson Commissioner

Don Ebert, Clearwater Commissioner

Tom Lamar, Latah Commissioner

Bob Tippett, Nez Perce Commissioner

Phil Lampert, Benewah Commissioner

Robert Swainston Franklin Commissioner

Bradley Jensen, Bear Lake Commissioner

Max Firth, Oneida Commissioner

Debbie Kauffman, Twin Falls Treasurer

Members Not Present:

Tom Dale, Canyon Commissioner

Tod Shenton, Clark C Commissioner

Kent McClellan, Minidoka Commissioner

Todd Smith, Madison Commissioner

Angenie McCleary, Blaine Commissioner

Wayne Butts, Custer Commissioner

Jerry Hoagland, Owyhee Commissioner

Shelly Shaffer, Butte Clerk

Other Guests:

Senator Bert Brackett

Representative Clark Kauffman

Laura Lantz. Idaho Association of Highway Districts

Jeff Miles, LHTAC

Lan Smith, LHTAC

Peter Stegnar, US Senator Mike Crapo’s Office

Laila Kral, LHTAC