

Transportation Committee

September 28, 2021 | 10:30 am – Noon

MEETING AGENDA

- 10:30 am Call to Order | *Chair Doug Zenner*
- Welcome and Introductions
 - Approval of February 2021 Meeting Minutes – Scott Hancock Jefferson
Commissioner moved to approve. Jacob Greenberg seconded. Motion carried.
- 10:35 am Update on Federal Infrastructure Bill | *Bob Sonnichsen, State Director of Business and Economic Development, Senator Mike Crapo's Office*
- Bob Sonnichsen gave an update on the federal infrastructure bill. The vote will be on Thursday on the 1.2 Trillion dollar infrastructure bill. The other bill being discussed is a 3.5 trillion dollar bill.
- If 1.2 trillion passes, Idaho would be looking at possibly 2 billion for Idaho roads. 213 million for water revolving funds. 40 million for maintenance and repair. 286 bridges are considering structurally insufficient. Would also secure SRS for 3 years. Would also have dollars for INL to improve the lab. Wildfire dollars would also be included. A 100 million for broadband expansion for the state is also supposed to be included.
- At this point, things are still up in the air. As of several minutes ago, there's a progressive group saying they want both bills passed at the same time or the deal is off. Senator Crapo worked hard with 16 other Senators to pair out the soft issues out of the original infrastructure proposal. Changing it from 2.5 billion to 1.2 billion instead of just voting no on the original package.
- There have been rumors that one senator may hold out to get the 3.5 trillion reduced to around 2 trillion if it passes in the House.
- Could potentially be 100 million a year for 5 years. It would run through the formula.

11:00 am Update on Idaho Transportation | *Senator Lori Den Hartog, Senate Transportation Chair & Representative Joe Palmer, House Transportation Chair (Invited)*

Chair Den Hartog gave an update on transportation at the state level with an update regarding the 2021 legislative session. The legislature and governor went into the session with transportation as a top priority.

The two chairs were convinced that an increase to the gas tax and or vehicle registrations was a non-starter with the \$600 million surplus.

They were committed to getting funding for the locals and for the state system. They were successful. They built on a concept that started in the House several years ago by accessing sales tax revenue which has been steadily increasing. They were able to get 4.5 % of sales tax revenue. Every percent is worth about 14 million dollars of revenue. \$80 million goes to the state. The remaining dollars will go to locals through the highway distribution formula.

Shifting topics, Senator Den Hartog wants to make sure that whatever happens with DMV, she wants to make sure it's an efficient process for the customer interfacing with government. There are so many levels of responsibility that it can allow for a lot of finger pointing but the public doesn't care. They see it as a government problem and don't differentiate between agencies or government levels.

Bob Sonnischen recommended looking into how to tax electric cars because they are ready to expand at an exponential rate. We have to determine at the federal and state level how to have electric vehicles pay their fair share.

Senator Den Hartog said that it is on her long-term to-do list to address the electric vehicle issue. She pointed out that this is not just an Idaho issue.

11:25 am Open Discussion on DMV

Ada Assessor Bob McQuade shared that Ada County is down to 8 minute weight times.

Nez Perce Assessor Dan Anderson offered an idea to have ITD send out the renewal notices with the county as the return address to help fund the office, so they can continue to offer affordable in-person service.

Sen. Den Hartog asked why we're sending it out via snail mail. She recognizes that many prefer to receive it through the mail.

Justin Baldwin shared that he knows that online is the future. If all of the online transactions were in a statewide queue, then when a county DMV office has some downtime, they could help process those transactions.

Hollie Ann Strang shared that park and rec sent everything out electronically last year and ended up with revenues down 40%. In the old system, they were able to allow people to opt-out of snail mail. Would like to see if this would be possible with GEM.

ITD has added responsibilities to counties over the last 12 years while removing revenue sources. The problems from GEM have been resolved, but they will increase again with centralization because assessors will have to let employees go due to lack of revenue.

Jerry White asked for communication improvement from Alberto Gonzales and ITD. They learn information in the bulletin. He asked for help keeping the lines of communication open.

Robin Owhyee Assessor shared that DHW has a statewide queue that works very well. She supports Justin Baldwin's idea.

Chris Goetz shared that Utah has had a rough time ever since they centralized with long lines.

Shari Maupin shared that they had a meeting with ITD asking what their long-term plans are for Valley County. They said that they don't have a long term plan not even for safety areas. They said they do not have enough funding to do long-term planning.

Sen. Den Hartog thanked the rural counties for the

Linda Jones shared that if there was a state-wide queue then there would need to be agreement statewide on what the admin fee for that would be.

Jefferson Treasurer Christine Lund shared that county officials are public servants who work directly with the citizens. It has been very hard on the employees and has concerns about how the centralization will affect citizens.

Franklin Assessor Doug Wallis shared that he's impressed with the willingness of commissioners to increase staff, but for those counties that did not they are understaffed already. With the loss of the easy transactions, there will be even more pressure on the understaffed counties. A uniform admin fee for a statewide queue would be important. He encouraged everyone to be proactive with solutions.

11:50 am Open Discussion on Possible Committee Name Change

Chair Zenner shared some possible language that could be used if the committee chooses to change the name of the committee to Transportation and Infrastructure. If the committee chooses to recommend change, it would need to go to the Board of Directors for approval.

Shari Maupin expressed full support of this change. She recommends that everyone make sure broadband is considered critical infrastructure.

Dick Fosbury asked how broadly infrastructure would be defined.

The consensus would be to suggest a name change to the Board of Directors to change the name to Transportation and Infrastructure.

12:00 pm Adjourn

Transportation Committee

MEMBERSHIP

<p>CHAIR Doug Zenner Nez Perce Commissioner</p>	<p>VICE CHAIR Jacob Greenberg Blaine Commissioner</p>
--	--

MEMBERS

Sheri Davies <i>Bannock Assessor</i>	Bryce Somsen <i>Caribou Commissioner</i>	Todd Smith <i>Madison Commissioner</i>
Terrel Tovey <i>Bannock Commissioner</i>	Greg Shenton <i>Clark Commissioner</i>	Jerry Hoagland <i>Owyhee Commissioner</i>
Heber Dunford <i>Bear Lake Assessor</i>	Rick Winkel <i>Clearwater Commissioner</i>	Joe Merrick <i>Owyhee Commissioner</i>
Bart Heslington <i>Bear Lake Sheriff</i>	Jacquell Bruno <i>Custer Assessor</i>	Kim Keeley <i>Teton Clerk</i>
Philip Lambert <i>Benewah Commissioner</i>	Scott Kamachi <i>Fremont Commissioner</i>	Cindy Riegel <i>Teton Commissioner</i>
Robert Short <i>Benewah Commissioner</i>	Jordon Stoddard <i>Fremont Commissioner</i>	Bob Heneage <i>Teton Commissioner</i>
Donovan Harrington <i>Bingham Assessor</i>	Ron Buhler <i>Gooding Commissioner</i>	Doug Miller <i>Valley Clerk</i>
Jessica Lewis <i>Bingham Commissioner</i>	Skip Brandt <i>Idaho Commissioner</i>	Sherry Maupin <i>Valley Commissioner</i>



Jim Williams
Blaine Assessor

Dick Fosbury
Blaine Commissioner

Brian Stender
Canyon Assessor

Tracie Lloyd
Canyon Treasurer

Scott Hancock
Jefferson Commissioner

Roger Clark
Jefferson Commissioner

Linda Jones
Lincoln Assessor

Joann Rutler
Lincoln Commissioner

Debbie Moxley-Potter
Washington Assessor

Kirk Chandler
Washington Commissioner

Nathan Marvin
Washington Commissioner