

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

September 25, 2023 | 2:30 pm –3:30 pm
Boise Centre | Boise, ID | Room 120AB

MEETING AGENDA

Chair Todd Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

- *Scott Hancock moved to approve the minutes from January 2023. Brent Reinke seconded. Motion carried.*

Chair Smith shared that his county is regionalizing a landfill. It is a lengthy process, but it can happen. He encouraged other committee members to consider regionalization.

Dean Ehlert from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality gave a presentation on solid waste management regionalization opportunities. He said the regionalization can be done in a variety of ways.

DEQ received a new grant to encourage more recycling. Industry is expanding. DEQ hopes regionalization will drive some interest in getting more recycling markets.

Chronic Wasting Disease is an issue that DEQ is working with Fish and Game to come up with some site characterizations that might be good for sites outside of a lined landfill.

Liquid waste disposal continues to be a problem across the state. They are working on ways to improve the capabilities on liquid waste.

Brent Reinke asked what the timelines are for addressing liquid waste issues. Twin Falls has had an application for liquid waste. Ehlert said he thinks they are close to wrapping up that particular permit.

Denis Duman asked what grants are available to help with the regionalization process. Dean said there is ARPA money, possible grants, and low-interest loans through the USDA. Todd Smith said they were able to secure a low-interest loan for 40 years through the USDA. They also were able to get a \$3M grant through DEQ.

Sherry Maupin said they were recently told they cannot burn their construction waste; they must grind it. She asked if they have any grants available at DEQ. Dean said there are no grants at DEQ, but there may be some grants through USDA.

Elt Hasbrouck asked if DEQ has considered generating power from solid waste instead of burying it in the ground. Dean shared that the air controls necessary are the big problem. Maintenance to the incinerator can also be difficult. If you have the volume and are willing to put the money into the infrastructure, then it is something to look into.

Chair Todd Smith said they looked into it, but even with Bonneville County, they needed more volume to afford it.

Blake Rindlesbacher, Engineering Division Administrator, shares that ITD's vision is enhancing the quality of life through transportation. He presented on the new Local Strategic Initiatives Grant Program that passed the legislature in 2023. ITD is concerned that there are not enough contractors.

There are two categories: Large Urban (over 50,000 pop.) and Small Urban and Rural (under 50,000 pop.). The response was phenomenal. They received 128 applications worth over \$300M. ITD thinks this demonstrates the need to continue supporting this grant program to the legislature. The ITD Board meets on October 18, 2023. They will receive the recommendations for funding. If they agree with the recommendations, then the awardee notification will occur October 19-27th. ITD tried hard to make this flexible and simple to fit local needs.

Lisa McClellan, DMV Administrator, gave an update on the DMV. Monthly registration since October 2022 has continued to grow. Around 50% of customers use the online portal to renew vehicle registrations. E-Notifications launched in March 2023. In June, they consolidated all of their online portals. CDL drivers can now also renew their CDL licenses online. In August, they brought in the DL reinstatement. The goal of the DMV customer is to lower the costs to the customer. McClellan said they are discussing with several counties across the state how they can consolidate their offices, combining D.L. and motor vehicle licensing. ITD is beta-testing virtual appointments from across the state. The county admin fee of each office will still go to the county, where the person gets their virtual appointment. They just tested last week. There is more information to come on this.

ITD is also exploring allowing counties to opt-in to review Title QAQC. The state will then pay the county a \$3 admin fee for the review.

Karissa Nelson, Environmental Lead & Resource Expert with LHTAC, gave an update on the Local Idaho Local Bridge program. Two hundred twenty-one bridges applied to the program. They broke these bridges down into five groups. \$203M has been obligated so far, which will fund 175 funded projects.

Transportation Committee

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Todd Smith
Madison Commissioner

VICE CHAIR

Denis Duman
Idaho Commissioner

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