



MOTOR CARRIERS of Montana

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The Honorable Christine Kaufman, Chair
Members of the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: SJR 26 Study

First I would like to apologize for being unable to attend this afternoons meeting as I am out of town traveling with agencies involved in the trucking industry.

MCM has a few suggestions that the committee might look at to help solve some of the issues with transportation corridors:

1. Clarify in statute that local jurisdictions have no authority to impose a separate permit or fee for oversize loads moving solely on State or Federal roadways;
2. Extend the timeframes for delaying traffic to at least match those granted to construction projects. Signs are often posted advising motorists to expect 15 minute delays for certain construction projects;
3. MDT should designate specific routes, based upon current and projected demand, where oversize loads will be accommodated. On these routes, utilities should be permanently relocated (raised or buried) to allow for expeditious movement of anticipated loads. Obviously, paying those costs will be public policy debate, considering the utility companies/co-ops are using the public right of way at no cost, but they would pass on their relocation costs to consumers in some fashion. Also local governments should be consulted when designating these routes should local roads be used. For example in Billings the local government has erected a new stop light on a route being used to transport goods manufactured in Montana to Canada and North Dakota. At a minimal additional expense the local government could have put these signals on a rotating base, now every time a load is moved the signal must be removed.
4. The Legislature should establish a process that directs MDT to identify the preferred "corridors of commerce," pay for the necessary upgrades to accommodate the anticipated oversize loads, then charge appropriate fees in the future that will allow the agency to recapture its investment. The appropriate fees

should have public comment and legislative oversight to make sure they are not going to hinder interstate commerce.

MCM has been happy to participate in this process and should you have any questions please feel free to contact me,

Thanks for your willingness to serve the citizens of the State of Montana and am looking forward to a solution we can all live with.

Sincerely,

Barry "Spook" Stang
Executive Vice president.