



TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Fox
Theresa Manzella
Barry Usher
Shelley Vance

HOUSE MEMBERS

Denise Baum
Neil Duram
Denley Loge
Zack Wirth

COMMITTEE STAFF

Katy Callon - Research Analyst
Joe Carroll - Attorney
Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary
Maddelyn Black - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 10, 2024
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Theresa Manzella, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Denise Baum, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Mike Fox (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Katy Callon, Research Analyst
Joe Carroll, Attorney
Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary
Maddelyn Black, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:01:54 Presiding Officer Denise Baum called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

09:03:35 Katy Callon, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:06:18 Rep. Denley Loge welcomed Rep. Neil Duram to the committee.

09:06:37 Rep. Neil Duram

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT) UPDATES

Transition Update – Vision/Changes

09:07:00 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

Progress of Safety Studies – Lolo, Bell Crossing, St. Regis, and Any Others of Interest

09:11:06 Bob Vosen, District Administrator, Missoula District, MDT

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:16:40 Rep. Denley Loge

09:17:26 Bob Vosen

Equipment and Maintenance Repair Needs – Increased Costs of Purchase and Upkeep & Staffing Level

09:19:25 Jon Swartz, Maintenance Division Administrator, MDT

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Public Comment

09:33:10 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:33:20 Rep. Denley Loge

09:33:32 Jon Swartz

UPDATE ON NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (NEVI) FUNDING

09:34:49 Sheila Ludlow, Integrated Transportation & Publications Supervisor, MDT

09:37:02 Ben Brouwer, Energy Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Public Comment

09:38:20 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:38:30 Rep. Denley Loge
09:38:46 Sheila Ludlow
09:39:02 Rep. Neil Duram
09:39:20 Sheila Ludlow

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION (MVD) UPDATES

09:39:52 Laurie Bakri, MVD Division Administrator
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:57:14 Rep. Neil Duram
09:57:30 Laurie Bakri

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSES – REVIEW OF FEDERAL EXCEPTION REFERENCE GUIDE

Review of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Explainer on CDL Exceptions

09:59:29 Katy Callon
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Public Comment

10:06:28 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

10:06:38 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:08:15 Laurie Bakri
10:10:03 Rep. Neil Duram
10:10:48 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
10:11:21 Laurie Bakri
10:11:39 Rep. Denley Loge
10:12:14 Laurie Bakri
10:12:30 Brad Marten, Administrator, MDT Motor Carrier Services

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

10:14:59 Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney, LSD
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
10:17:17 **Recessed**
10:50:25 **Reconvened**

FOLLOW-UP REGARDING ALTERNATIVE PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS DISCUSSION Update On Continued Conversations With MCA

10:50:52 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, MDT

Montana Contractors Association –Feedback/Response

10:55:25 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association

Public Comment

11:01:14 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:01:22 Rep. Denley Loge

11:02:54 Sen. Barry Usher

11:04:27 Chris Dorrington

11:05:57 Larry Flynn

11:08:10 Sen. Barry Usher

U.S. 93 BELL CROSSING ROUNDABOUT PROJECT DISCUSSION

MDT – Update on Plans & Status

11:10:07 Larry Flynn

11:15:28 Bob Vosen

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:18:54 Sen. Shelley Vance

11:20:20 Bob Vosen

11:21:47 Rep. Neil Duram

11:22:50 Bob Vosen

11:23:57 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

11:26:01 Bob Vosen

11:29:04 Larry Flynn

11:30:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

11:31:33 Bob Vosen

11:31:42 Larry Flynn

11:34:26 Gabe Priebe, Traffic & Safety Bureau Chief, MDT

11:36:18 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

11:36:35 Gabe Priebe

11:37:36 Sen. Barry Usher

11:38:44 Larry Flynn

Transportation Commission

11:40:30 Loran Frazier, Chair, Transportation Commission

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:41:16 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

11:41:28 Loran Frazier

11:42:41 Sen. Barry Usher

11:43:41 Loran Frazier

11:46:16 Larry Flynn
11:49:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:51:06 Gabe Priebe
11:52:26 Rep. Zack Wirth
11:53:07 Bob Vosen

Public Comment

11:55:27 Barbie Luhman
11:57:27 Bob Vosen
12:00:55 Bill Lussenheide, Central Committee, Ravalli County
12:02:10 Bob Vosen

DRAFT TIC INTERIM SUMMARY REPORT – REVIEW

12:05:39 Katy Callon
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

12:10:55 Sen. Shelley Vance
12:11:29 Rep. Denley Loge
12:12:56 Sen. Barry Usher
12:15:51 Rep. Denley Loge
12:16:31 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
12:17:03 Rep. Denley Loge
12:17:21 Rep. Neil Duram
12:17:53 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
12:18:43 Rep. Denley Loge
12:19:11 Rep. Zack Wirth
12:20:15 Katy Callon
12:21:05 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
12:21:27 Sen. Barry Usher
12:22:24 Katy Callon
12:24:18 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
12:25:49 Rep. Denley Loge
12:27:08 Rep. Neil Duram
12:31:07 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
12:32:26 Sen. Barry Usher
12:35:39 **Recessed**
13:35:50 **Reconvened**

**BIG SKY PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY – UPDATES ON FEDERAL RAIL
ADMINISTRATION PROGRESS**

13:36:14 Dave Strohmaier, Chair, Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

MDT Updates

13:56:25 Heather Kuklo, Freight & Rail Planner, MDT

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Public Comment

14:09:51 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:10:01 Rep. Denley Loge

14:10:56 Dave Strohmaier

14:13:03 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

14:13:33 Heather Kuklo

14:23:26 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

14:23:44 Dave Strohmaier

MONTANA & AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES – NHTSA GENERAL STANDING ORDER & CRASH DATA REVIEW

Review of NHTSA Standing General Order on Crash Reporting for Autonomous Vehicles & Requirements

14:31:41 Katie Timmons, Associate Attorney, Venable, LLP

[EXHIBIT 9](#) (PowerPoint Presentation)

NHTSA Crash Data Overview

14:49:29 Katy Callon

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Public Comment

15:03:45 John MacDonald, Alliance for Automotive Innovation

15:06:14 Jason Yager, President, Montana Photonics and Quantum Alliance

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:07:38 Sen. Shelley Vance

15:08:00 Katy Callon

15:09:32 Rep. Denley Loge

15:09:49 Jason Yager

15:11:10 Sen. Barry Usher

15:12:06 John MacDonald

15:12:58 Sen. Barry Usher

15:13:58 Katy Callon

15:16:01 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

15:16:37 Sen. Barry Usher

15:17:14 Katie Timmons

15:19:44 Rep. Denley Loge

15:21:17 Rep. Zack Wirth
15:21:59 Rep. Neil Duram
15:22:45 Sen. Shelley Vance

ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND JUNK VEHICLE/DISPOSAL STATUTE & FUNDING

Overview of Funding & Statute

15:24:42 Katy Callon
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

DEQ Follow-Up

15:39:46 Sonja Nowakowski, Director, DEQ
15:41:07 Rick Thompson, Waste Management Bureau Chief, DEQ

Public Comment

15:47:52 John MacDonald

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:50:23 Rep. Denley Loge
15:51:20 Rick Thompson
15:53:32 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
15:54:06 Rick Thompson
15:56:02 Sen. Shelley Vance
15:56:35 Rick Thompson
15:59:03 Rep. Zack Wirth
15:59:22 Rick Thompson
16:01:45 **Recessed**
16:11:20 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT on any item in TIC's subject matter jurisdiction

16:11:47 George McCauley
16:18:42 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:19:58 Rep. Denley Loge

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW - Continued

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:21:27 Rep. Neil Duram
16:21:53 Rep. Denley Loge

DRAFT TIC INTERIM SUMMARY REPORT – REVIEW- Continued

16:22:19 (see [EXHIBIT 6](#))

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:23:45 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:24:30 Rep. Neil Duram
16:25:06 Rep. Zack Wirth
16:25:42 Rep. Denley Loge
16:28:13 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:28:51 Rep. Neil Duram
16:29:10 John MacDonald
16:29:27 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:31:40 Rep. Denley Loge
16:32:37 Rep. Neil Duram
16:33:57 Rep. Denley Loge
16:34:33 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:35:52 Rep. Neil Duram
16:37:17 Rep. Denley Loge
16:38:39 Rep. Neil Duram
16:39:26 Rep. Zack Wirth
16:40:39 Sen. Barry Usher
16:42:07 Rep. Denley Loge
16:44:01 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:45:39 Rep. Denley Loge
16:47:49 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum
16:48:58 Rep. Denley Loge
16:51:55 Rep. Neil Duram
16:52:37 Rep. Denley Loge
16:53:14 Vice Presiding Officer Denise Baum

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Next/Last Meeting – September 4. Topics

16:54:11 Katy Callon
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:57:04 Rep. Denley Loge

Request for Update on HB 661 (2019) – Aviation Fuel User Fee – Funding & Projects

16:58:09 Katy Callon

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:59:28 Rep. Denley Loge

Request Provisional Draft Legislation, If Applicable, For Review at September Meeting

17:00:25 Katy Callon

Committee Questions/Discussion

17:01:22 Rep. Neil Duram

17:01:56 Rep. Zack Wirth

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:02:43