

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Meeting Jointly
Monday, December 6, 2021
3:00 PM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Blake Johnson, Chair; Mathew Pitsch, Vice-Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Trent Garner, and Ricky Hill; Representatives Mike Holcomb, Chair; Mark Berry, Harlan Breaux, Joshua Bryant, John Carr, Craig Christiansen, Denise Ennett, David Fielding, Tony Furman, Delia J. Haak, Johnny Rye, and David Whitaker

Other committee members present: Senator Mark Johnson; Representatives Keith Brooks, and Vivian Flowers

Senator Blake Johnson called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Expenditures of Special Expenses incurred by the Senate Committee on Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs and the House Public Transportation Committee

Representative Fielding made a motion to authorize chairs to approve expenditures of special expenses, seconded by Senator Chesterfield, and the motion carried.

Consideration to Approve Minutes of the August 1, 2019, Meeting (Exhibit D)

Senator Chesterfield made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Christiansen, and the motion carried.

Consideration to Adopt Interim Study Proposals (ISPs) (Exhibits E1-E4)

Senator Chesterfield made a motion to adopt ISP 2021-503, ISP 2021-064, ISP 2021-066, and ISP 2021-090, seconded by Senator Garner, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
10:30 AM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Blake Johnson, Chair; Mathew Pitsch, Vice-Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Jane English, Colby Fulfer, Ricky Hill, and Clarke Tucker

Other members present: Representatives Harlan Breaux, Craig Christiansen, Charlene Fite, Jimmy Gazaway, Mike Holcomb, Lee Johnson, John Maddox, and Danny Watson

Senator Johnson called the meeting to order.

Adoption and Discussion of ISP 2021-115 by Senator Johnson [Exhibit B]

Senator Pitsch made a motion to adopt and discuss Interim Study Proposal 2021-115, seconded by Senator English, and the motion carried.

Comments were made by Representative Fite and Representative Gazaway regarding the ISP's purpose along with the families of Brendan Burns and Preston Brayfield, both of whom were killed in work zones. Both families were advocating for stricter safety measures to be implemented in work zones. Haskell Dickson, representing Associated General Contractors of Arkansas and McGeorge Contracting, discussed safety practices implemented to ensure the protection of construction zone workers. Chief Jeff Holmes, Highway Police Division, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT); Gill Rogers, Governmental Relations Officer, ARDOT; and Derek White, ARDOT; stated the importance of work zone safety to ARDOT and how safety measures for each individual project are determined.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Monday, October 10, 2022
9:00 AM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Representatives Mike Holcomb, Chair; Danny Watson, Vice-Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker, Mark Berry, Harlan Breaux, Joshua Bryant, Craig Christiansen, Denise Ennett, David Fielding, Tony Furman, Delia Haak, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, David Tollett, and Dwight Tosh

Other members present: Representatives Fred Allen, Marsh Davis, Kenneth Ferguson, Lane Jean, Jack Ladyman, and Tippi McCollough

Representative Holcomb called the meeting to order.

Update Regarding the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (“NEVI Program”) [Exhibit B]

Lori Tudor, Director, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT); and Brad McCaleb, Transportation Planning & Policy Division Head, ARDOT discussed the overall goal of meeting federal minimum requirements while maintaining a free market perspective in order to maximize benefits for Arkansas in regard to the NEVI Program.

Update Regarding Interstate 69

Lori Tudor, Director, ARDOT, provided an update on Interstate 69 and the total cost to build out the 2700 mile Corridor from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada.

Adoption and Discussion of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2021-112 by Representative Vivian Flowers [Exhibits D1-D4]

Representative Holcomb stated that without objection ISP 2021-112 would be adopted and discussed.

Representative Flowers; Gerald Sales III, Arkansas Legislative Director, SMART Transportation Division; and Jeff McKenzie, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen; discussed the safety concerns regarding the lengths of railroad trains operated on a main line or branch line and attempts to regulate the length. Paul Benham, Attorney, Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, testified that states do not have the ability to restrict interstate commerce based on the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Matthew Stallings, Arkansas Professional Firefighters, discussed safety concerns on the part of first responders in relation to trains blocking train crossings for extended periods of time.

Discussion Relating to Passenger Train Service in Arkansas [Handout 1]

Representative Craig Christiansen, Chair of House Public Transportation and Rail Subcommittee; Derrick James, Director of Government Affairs, Amtrak; and Ismael Cuevas, M.A., Government Affairs Manager, Amtrak; presented on the benefits of Amtrak services throughout the state and potential advertising strategies.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.