

TENTATIVE A G E N D A

Transportation Legislation Review Committee

House Committee Room 0112

State Capitol Building

Thursday, July 19, 2001

9:00 a.m.

SUMMARY FOLLOWS AGENDA

9:00 a.m. — *Call to Order*

- Senator Alice Nichol, Vice Chair

9:05 a.m. — *Colorado Trucking Issues Update*

- Greg Fulton, President, Colorado Motor Carriers

10:00 a.m. — *Multi-state Highway Transportation Agreement Alliance (MHTA) Update*

- Matt Sundeen, Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures

10:30 a.m. — *Public/Private Partnerships for Transportation and Ports to Plains Proposal*

- Tom Norton, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation

11:30 a.m. — *Titling of Salvaged Vehicle*

- Representative Joe Stengel???

12:00 p.m. — *Lunch*

1:30 p.m. — *Presentation of Signatures for American Indian License Plate*

- Representative Suzanne William

1:40 p.m. — *Driver Qualifications for License Renewal*

- R.J. Hicks, Motor Vehicle Group, Department of Revenue

1:50 p.m. — *Transportation Funding Issues????*

- Nancy McCallin, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting

2:15 p.m. — *Colorado Transit Needs*

- Joe Henjum, President of the Board, Colorado Mobility Coalition

2:45 p.m. — *Northwest Parkway Authority Update*

- Stephen Hogan, Executive Director, Northwest Parkway Authority

3:15 p.m. — *Public Testimony Related to Activities of the Northwest Parkway Authority*

STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC)

House Committee Room 0112

State Capitol Building

July 19, 2001

9:03 AM - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Senator Nichol, Vice Chairman. Members present were Representatives Borodkin, Coleman, Mace, Ragsdale, Stafford, and Willaims, and Senators Entz, Isgar, May, Takis, Teck, Tupa, and Nichol. Representatives Larson, Sinclair, Smith, Witwer and Swenson were absent and excused. Also present were Geoffrey Johnson and Larry Thompson, Legislative Council Staff; and Jason Gelender and Christy Chase, Office of Legislative Legal Services.

9:07 AM - Colorado Trucking Issues Update

Greg Fulton, President, Colorado Motor Carrier's Association commented on issues confronting the Colorado trucking industry. He discussed the economic impact of trucking on the state, and added that profit margins in the industry have been declining in recent years. The industry is challenged by dropping freight volumes, increasing fuel prices, and increasing insurance costs. He commented on programs supported by the Colorado Motor Carriers to increase truck safety, cleaner truck emissions standards, and diminishment of truck noise complaints. He noted that the Motor Carriers may propose three potential bills during the coming regular legislative session. These include a bill to address civil penalties for intrastate and interstate truck operators, minor changes to the motor carrier statutes, and incentives for acquisition of advanced safety equipment.

10:10 AM - CDOT - Public/Private Partnerships and Eastern Colorado Mobility Study

Tom Norton, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) commented on public/private partnerships in transportation and the Eastern Colorado Mobility Study. He noted that legislation was enacted in 1998 to facilitate public/private partnerships and that rules and regulations have been adopted relating to these partnerships (PPI Program). The Colorado Transportation Commission has adopted guidelines for implementation of the PPI Program. Under the current system, CDOT defines transportation needs and the private sector submits proposals to the Department to meet the needs. User pay approaches, such as tolls or modified tolls are considered. The statute, Sections 43-1-1201, C.R.S. et. seq. also permits CDOT to accept unsolicited proposals.

Two projects have been approved by the Transportation Commission for further consideration. These are The Front Range Toll Authority and The I-70 Express Lane Project. This program presents another way that the state can address its \$30 billion transportation funding shortfall.

10:28 AM

Representative Mace expressed concerns she has with the proposed I-70 Express Lane. Tom Norton said that neighborhoods affected by the project will have opportunities for input during its development.

10:45 AM

Executive Director Norton commented on the idea for a Front Range Toll Authority, the "Super Slab". He said that this idea originated 18 years ago. It continues to be evaluated for private investment. The cost for the project would be in the \$4 to \$5 billion range. It would include rail facilities. Director Norton commented on the federal designation of high priority corridors in Colorado. He said that CDOT is also conducting a study of high priority corridors on the eastern plains.

11:08 AM - Multi-State Highway Transportation Agreement Alliance (MSHTAA)

Matt Sundeen, National Conference of State Legislatures commented on the Multi-State Highway Transportation Agreement Alliance. He said that the Alliance was formed in 1981 between ten western states to cooperate on issues relating to truck size and weight, truck safety and other issues related to the trucking industry. A committee of MSHTAA meets several times per year. MSHTAA is addressed in

Colorado statutes. He commented on industry participation and administration of the agreements. He said that NCSL has recently studied MSHTAA's structure and activities and made several recommendations for improving MSHTAA. He noted that the enabling legislation for MSHTAA in several states is not sufficient. Eight of the ten jurisdictions have adopted the NCSL recommendations. A few additional states are considering joining MSHTAA. MSHTAA adopts resolutions which are primarily directed at Congress, the resolutions do not bind any state.

11:40 AM - Arboles Air Strip

Senator Entz commented on the potential for reopening the Arboles Airstrip in southern Colorado. He said that the Colorado Department of Natural Resources will reopen the airstrip as soon the Colorado Attorney General resolves liability issues. Reopening the airstrip will also necessitate the review of a prior inspection of the airstrip by the Colorado Division of Aeronautics.

11:55 AM

Recess.

1:35 PM - Colorado County Clerks - License Plate Distribution

Sara Fisher, President, Colorado State Association of County Clerks and Recorders, commented on a letter which was previously distributed to TLRC members by the Department of Revenue addressing license plate distribution in the state. She distributed a letter from the Association relating to the DOR letter. Senator Nichol recommended that the Clerks and the Department of Revenue meet to resolve issues that remain concerning license plate distribution in Colorado.

2:17 PM - Transportation Funding Issues

Nancy McCallin, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting commented on transportation funding issues confronting the state. She said that Amendment 23 which was passed last year by Colorado voters increased funding for K-12 education by exempting a share of the TABOR surplus. A timing issue forced the General Assembly to take \$340 million out of the General Fund. She said that the state is operating "closer to the margin" than it has in recent years, and noted that in statute one of the first areas to be impacted by this reduction in the available surplus is transportation funding under "Senate Bill 1." The gap in transportation funding was addressed in HB 01-1267, allowing the state to retain about \$300 million more than had been expected due to a one-time windfall from the census. Under the bill \$244 million was transferred from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to the General Fund. This bill also provided that in the 2002-2003 fiscal year the \$244 million will be repaid to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund, essentially "pushing the problem out one year."

The state will have several challenges in budgeting for the next fiscal year. These include Amendment 23 funding, a settlement from a water-related suit with the state of Kansas, a developmentally disabled-related lawsuit, a Rocky Mountain HMO lawsuit, and the federal tax reduction. She said that transportation funding sources in Colorado are somewhat unstable.

2:50 PM - American Indian License Plate

Representative Williams commented on a proposed American Indian License Plate. Requests for new special license plates come before the TLRC. The plate would provide funding for scholarships for American Indians. Signatures for proposed special plates must be verified by the Department of Revenue. The TLRC will consider a bill to establish new special plates at its August 28 meeting.

Karen Wild-Rogers, Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs commented on signature collection for the plate. R.J. Hicks, Colorado Department of Revenue commented on the proposed plate. He said that about 85 plates have been authorized in Colorado. The Department is creating rules for the establishment of new plates. Twenty-five dollars per plate would be directed to the scholarship fund.

Jonnie Bearcub Stiffarm, Denver, said that the Denver metro area is home to more than 43,000 American Indians.

3:11 PM - Driver Qualifications for License Renewal

R.J. Hicks, Motor Vehicle Group, Colorado Department of Revenue, commented on driver qualifications for license renewal in Colorado. He said that up to a ten year period is permitted in the state for license renewal. Concerns have been raised about assuring vision acuity and the physical ability to drive of Colorado drivers. The Department is considering recommending legislation to the TLRC to address these concerns.

3:30 PM - Colorado Optometric Association

Gwen Hume, Colorado Optometric Association, said that she is concerned that Coloradans could drive for as long as twenty years without having an eye exam in Colorado under the current system.

3:52 PM - Colorado Mobility Coalition - Colorado Transit Needs

Joe Henjum, Colorado Mobility Coalition, said that the goal of his organization is to improve transportation services and public transit in the state. He said that Colorado has relied almost exclusively on highways to date, and that the state needs to put effort into developing multi-modal transportation solutions to move people more effectively.

He said that efforts are needed on the part of both the public and private sectors. His organization has supported legislation to provide multi-modal transportation in Colorado. Surveys show that Coloradans support multi-modal transportation. His organization is making several requests of the legislature. The Coalition would like the legislature to use the referral process to create a multi-modal fund. They would like to see volunteer drivers exempted from liability, and finally they would like to see the allocation of a greater portion of state transportation dollars for public transportation.

Mr. Henjum noted that Colorado is one of only five states in the country that "contribute nothing to public transportation."

Bert Melcher, Denver, commented on public participation in developing CDOT's "Eighth Pot."

4:17 PM - Northwest Parkway Authority Update

Mayor Bill Berens, Broomfield, commented on the activities of the Northwest Parkway Authority and the today's groundbreaking. He said that \$413 million in bonds have been sold for the 10.2 mile project. The Colorado Public Highway Authority Act of 1987 allowed the creation of the Northwest Parkway Authority and the E-470 Authority.

Mayor Berens said that the Northwest Parkway is being built to serve development that is already existing and that \$20 million of the bond funds will be used for acquisition of perpetual open space.

4:44 PM - Public Testimony Related to the Activities of the Northwest Parkway

Elliot Brown, Golden, Citizen's Involved in the Northwest Quadrant, commented on the potential for a future link from the Northwest Parkway to C-470. He said that a feasibility study was conducted by CDOT finding no need for completion of a "beltway." He said that traffic problems are found mostly in the eastern part of the Northwest Quadrant, and that if constructed, this connection would accommodate only ten percent of the trips made in the area. His group believes that the link is proposed only as a means to more intense development of the Quadrant. He said that residents of Jefferson County do not support the proposal and that the state's scarce resources should be used where public need and public support exists.

5:03 PM

The meeting adjourned.