

MINUTES
SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY
AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON REVENUE AND TAXATION
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON REVENUE AND TAXATION
MEETING JOINTLY

October 26, 2017

The Senate Interim Committee on Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs, the House Interim Committee on Public Transportation, and the House and Senate Interim Committees on Revenue and Taxation, met jointly at 10:00 a.m., October 26, 2017, at the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), 11300 Baseline Road, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators Bill Sample, Chair (Transportation), and Ronald Caldwell; Representatives Marcus Richmond, Vice Chair (Transportation), Joe Jett, Chair (Revenue & Tax), Fred Allen, Scott Baltz, Karilyn Brown, LeAnne Burch, Charles Blake, Ken Bragg, Karilyn Brown, Dan Douglas, Kenneth Ferguson, David Fielding, Jack Fortner, Michael John Gray, Kim Hendren, Steve Hollowell, Roger Lynch, Andy Mayberry, Ron McNair, Reginald Murdock, Johnny Rye, James Sorvillo, Danny Watson, and Carlton Wing.

Other Members Present: Senator Alan Clark; Representatives David Branscum, Carol Dalby, Trevor Drown, Austin McCollum, Mark McElroy, Milton Nicks, Jr., and Matthew Shepherd.

Senator Sample called the meeting to order.

Comments by Committee Chairs

Senator Sample welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He noted the Highway 70 to I-30 widening project was originally to be constructed in two phases: I-30 to Highway 128 and Highway 128 to Hot Springs; however, Mr. Scott Bennett, Director, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), determined that the state would save money and speed up the process if the projects were combined. Senator Sample commended Mr. Bennett for his leadership and McGeorge Contracting Company for their work on the project.

Mr. Bennett provided an overview of the Highway 70 to I-30 project and provided the following information:

- widening project covers 19 miles; cost - \$80 million paid from ½ cent sales tax and normal funding
- low bidder: McGeorge Contracting Company of Pine Bluff
- upon completion, Highway 70 to I-30 will have 4 travel lanes and 1 center lane, making travel safer and more efficient; 4 bridges will be replaced; 140 vendors supplying materials/services and creating jobs

Tours

Mr. Kris Treadway, Sign Shop Supervisor; and Mr. John Bettis, Staff Engineer, ARDOT, provided a tour of the sign shop which manufactures most of the approximately 60,000 regulatory, warning, and guide signs per year for roadways and interstates. The largest signs are specialty items and are outsourced to third parties that have the necessary equipment and materials. Old signs are reclaimed through a sanding process for re-use of the aluminum sign blanks. Approximately 30 percent of all signs are manufactured using reclaimed aluminum.

Mr. James Dean, Staff Engineer; Mr. Jon Annabelle, Division Head; and Ms. Dawn Richards, Section Head, Materials Division, ARDOT, escorted members on the tour. The Materials Division ensures that all highway construction and maintenance materials meet established specifications. Additional responsibilities include approval for producing acceptable pavement. Soil investigations produce roadway and bridge foundation information for the design divisions. The Chemistry Laboratory performs chemical analysis on items such as structural paint, pavement marking paint, treated fence posts, and diesel fuel. It also tests asphalt cement, emulsified asphalts, and other asphalt-based products.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.