

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, April 18, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David H. Steele,
Senate Chair
Rep. Joseph G. Murray,
House Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ed Mayne
Rep. Gerry A. Adair
Rep. Don E. Bush
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Max W. Young

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen,
Research Analyst
Ms. Cheryl Felt,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Committee Business

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 2:19 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson and Rep. Adair absent for the vote.

2. Report of Transportation Bills Passed During the 2001 General Session

Mr. Christensen reviewed a document “Transportation 2001 Summaries of Bills that Passed” that was mailed to committee members prior to the meeting.

3. I-15 Reconstruction and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

Mr. Thomas Warne, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), distributed a handout “I-15 Reconstruction Project Update” and discussed the freeway reconstruction progress. He also discussed the payment schedule to Wasatch Constructors. Mr. Warne said the reconstruction

project is under budget and will be completed by July 15, 2001, which is three months ahead of schedule.

Mr. Warne also discussed the decision not to exercise the \$20 million maintenance warranty with Wasatch Constructors.

Mr. John Njord, UDOT, distributed a handout "FY 2001 State-Funded Priority Projects Planned and/or Advertised by October 1 in the Program Year" and discussed the high priority projects that were identified within the STIP for the upcoming fiscal year.

4. Motorboat Driver Licensing and Boating Under the Influence

Rep. Loraine Pace, who sponsored the bill "Motorboat Drivers Licensing Requirement" during the 2001 General Session, discussed the bill and concerns with amendments which were made in the House of Representatives. She said the bill did not get through the Senate due to time constraints.

Mr. Ted Woolley, State Parks and Recreation, distributed a handout "Supporters of HB-141 Motorboat Drivers Licensing Requirements" and spoke in favor of the bill, which includes merging the vehicle DUI law with the boat BUI law. He also discussed the age of those who receive boat licenses.

Mr. Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Safety Advocacy, National Transportation Safety Board, distributed a letter to Rep. Loraine Pace regarding sponsorship of H.B. 141, an article from *The National Transportation Safety Board* "Most Wanted – Transportation Safety Improvements," and a document "Testimony of Kevin Quinlan on Boater Licensing and Related Provisions." He urged the committee to consider enactment of a comprehensive operator licensing requirement and spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Bart Blackstock, Driver License Division, discussed insurance issues pertaining to boating licenses.

Mr. Christensen distributed a handout "Motorboat Driver Licensing and Boating Under the Influence" and summarized the policy issues, licensing requirements, and current law regarding H.B. 141 "Motorboat Drivers Licensing Requirement."

Mr. Lou Carroll spoke in support of boating licenses and providing education to boaters on the hazards of boating and the motorboat bill.

Ms. Mary Phillips, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, also spoke in support of motorboat licensing.

Mr. Dave Harris, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, distributed a memorandum to the United States Department of the Interior "Boat endorsement on Utah driver's license," and discussed its contents.

5. Alternative Fuel for Vehicles

Ms. Felt discussed a handout "Alternative Fuel for Vehicles" that was mailed to committee members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Palmer DePaulos, Utah State Tax Commission, discussed whether hybrid electric vehicle owners should receive the same income tax credit that is offered to owners of vehicles that are converted to clean fuels. He noted that hybrid vehicles do not qualify for a tax credit for clean fuel under the current statutory language.

Ms. Lynn Solarczyk, Utah State Tax Commission, explained the process for purchasing a clean fuel special certificate.

Mr. Rick Sprott, Director of Air Quality, said the tax credit was given to benefit air quality and energy independence, and to encourage the use of domestic natural gas versus foreign gasoline. He recommended that the committee consider the recognition of hybrid vehicles in the tax credit. He noted that Sen. Orrin Hatch is drafting a bill at the national level to promote a federal tax credit for hybrid vehicles.

Rep. Dillree requested that staff draft legislation to allow hybrid vehicles to qualify for a tax credit. The draft would be discussed at a future meeting.

6. Other Committee Business

7. Adjourn -

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

