

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, June 19, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 405 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. David H. Steele, Senate Chair  
Rep. Joseph G. Murray, House Chair  
Sen. Karen Hale  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Ed Mayne  
Sen. Carlene M. Walker  
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:**

Sen. Dan R. Eastman

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Research Analyst  
Mr. Keith M. Woodwell, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Junie G. Anderson, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangarter, at 538-1032.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Steele called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Adair moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson, Sen. Walker, Rep. Clark, Rep. Hansen, Rep. King, and Rep. Murray absent for the vote.

**2. Special Group License Plates Process**

Mr. Christensen referred to a handout "Utah Special Group License Plates" that was mailed to the committee members prior to the meeting. He discussed the history of special group license plates and said in 1991, the Legislature consolidated existing plate provisions, established a blank plate with decals for special groups, established an administrative process to add more special group plates, and set an additional \$50 initial application fee and a \$10 annual renewal fee for special group plates. He said since 1991, 13 additional special group license plates have been added and almost all have been exempted from the additional fees. He also explained that the administrative process for issuing new special group plates has never been utilized. In 1992, fund raising type license plates were added.

Mr. Christensen also suggested that perhaps a reexamination of special group licence plates to simplify legislation that comes to the Legislature almost every year may help legislators clearly see the policy choices being made. He referred to a revision of the handout "Utah Special Group License Plates" arranged by grouping similar types of plates, and suggested that these groupings may be helpful in establishing new policies by the Legislature. He also distributed an updated version of "Utah Special Group License Plates (23 Types plus 23 Variations)" and explained the different types and variations of the plates.

Mr. Woodwell distributed a handout "Special Group License Plate Revision" and draft legislation "Special Group License Plate Revisions." He explained that the legislation recodifies and organizes existing special

group license plate provisions, groups the plates by type, and creates a separate section for disability plates. He said the legislation could also provide uniform standards for different types of plates and provide a more workable process for adding new plates. He asked the Committee to provide policy guidance on the issues of fee exemptions and the process for creating new special group plates.

Mr. Rod Marrelli, Utah State Tax Commission, distributed a handout "Special Group Plates." He referred to a display board showing the decals of all the special group license plates and discussed the special plate types and how many have been issued to date. He described the process for ordering special group plates and what is involved in producing the special plates. He asked the Committee to consider several issues when making the policy regarding special group plates, including the complexity of optional designs for special plates and a consistent date for implementation that would allow time to create the designs. He suggested that the date should be January 1, following the year that the legislation is passed, or 60 days after the final design of the decal is submitted.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hale moved that staff work with Rep. Hogue and the Tax Commission to prepare legislation to consolidate, simplify, and revise the process for the approval and issuance of special group license plates. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson and Rep. Clark absent for the vote.

### **3. Light Rail/Commuter Rail–Update**

Mr. Mike Allegra, Director of Transit Development, UTA (Utah Transit Authority), gave a status report on commuter rail/light rail progress. He noted that ridership has doubled previous expectations. He distributed a map "Regional Concept Plan" and a corridor preservation map "Preservation of Rights of Way from Union Pacific Railroad" and discussed future plans and rights-of-way issues.

He noted that the light rail extension to the University Medical Center is expected to be completed by late 2004 and that environmental studies are underway on light rail extensions to West Valley City and West Jordan. He explained that purchase of the commuter rail corridor is expected to be finalized by the end of the summer 2002 and the first commuter rail between Salt Lake City and Ogden is expected to be in place by the summer of 2007.

Ms. Kathryn Pett, UTA, said Utah County will have to pass the additional 1/4 cent sales tax to increase its contribution to the transit system before any options for light rail, commuter rail, or expanded bus systems can be pursued.

Ms. Pett updated the Committee on future commuter rail/light rail projects. She expressed appreciation to the Legislature for changing the Constitution to allow government entities to take advantage of financing techniques and noted that it would be on the ballot in November for the public to decide if the Constitution should be amended to allow government entities within Utah to take advantage of the technique.

### **4. Data Collection of Prior DUI Offenses for Prosecution and Sentencing – Report**

Mr. Woodwell discussed the provisions in H.B. 18 "Court Records of Driving Under the Influence Cases" that was mailed to committee members prior to the meeting. He explained that the bill passed during the 2002 General Session and requires state courts to "collect and maintain data necessary to allow sentencing

and enhancement decisions to be made in accordance with" State DUI laws. It also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to report data collection and DUI-related data elements to the Committee. He said that state courts do not include justice courts where a large portion of the DUI cases are tried. He indicated that the first known DUI offense with enhanced penalties for a second or subsequent offenses was enacted by the Legislature in 1941. Therefore, keeping track of DUI offenses and making that information available to prosecutors and judges has been an issue for 61 years.

Ms. Judy Hamaker-Mann, Director, Driver License Division, said that the courts report DUI convictions to the Driver License Division for driver license suspension and revocation purposes. She also noted that this conviction information can be accessed through the Division.

Mr. Richard H. Schwermer, Assistant Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts, distributed a handout "H.B. 18 - Required Data Elements" and reported on data collection and DUI-related data elements that are needed for sentencing and enhancement decisions by prosecutors and judges. He explained that DUI arrests and convictions are all reported to the DPS (Department of Public Safety) and can be accessed through the DPS.

Rep. Murray asked Mr. Schwermer how a judge or prosecutor knows that a person being tried for a DUI in a justice court in a small Utah town has prior DUI convictions in another Utah jurisdiction. Mr. Schwermer answered that the prosecutor and the judge should check for that information prior to the trial.

Mr. Lee King, City Administrator, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke in support of H.B. 18.

Mr. Bart Blackstock, Deputy Director, Driver License Division, discussed the complexity of the form used for driver license applicants and the attached motor voter form.

#### **5. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Steele and the committee members expressed their appreciation to Keith Woodwell and Junie Anderson who will be leaving the committee staff.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Mayne and Rep. King absent for the vote. Chair Steele adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.