



TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Gregg Hunter
Denley Loge
Andrea Olsen
Russ Tempel

HOUSE MEMBERS

Denise Baum
Curtis Cochran
Chip Fitzpatrick
Greg Kmetz
Zack Wirth

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca (Becca) Brown – Lead Staff
Joseph Carroll – Legal Staff
Maddelyn Pennington - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 13, 2026
Room 154
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Russ Tempel, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Chip Fitzpatrick, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Curtis Cochran (R)
Sen. Gregg Hunter (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Sen. Denley Loge (R)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff
Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff
Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:30:46 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

08:33:16 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT)

08:34:13 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:48:40 Sen. Denley Loge
08:49:09 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
08:51:28 Rep. Curtis Cochran
08:52:00 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
08:56:27 Rep. Denise Baum
08:57:00 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
09:00:21 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:00:39 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

ROAD USE CHARGES (RUCS)

09:08:40 Maureen Bock, Chief Innovation Officer, Road User Fee section manager, Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:25:47 Sen. Denley Loge
09:25:53 Maureen Bock, ODOT
09:29:31 Sen. Gregg Hunter
09:29:53 Maureen Bock, ODOT
09:30:47 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:31:14 Maureen Bock, ODOT
09:38:24 Rep. Denise Baum
09:39:01 Maureen Bock, ODOT

FUELS AND WHAT THEY FUND

09:40:47 Becca Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

09:43:30 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:52:24 Sen. Gregg Hunter

09:52:42 Larry Flynn, MDT

09:53:58 Sen. Andrea Olsen

09:54:28 Larry Flynn, MDT

09:56:45 Becca Brown, LSD

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

09:57:35 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

09:57:50 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

Public Comment

09:59:31 Jesse Therien

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:02:03 Sen. Denley Loge

10:02:12 Jesse Therien

10:03:19 **Recessed**

10:30:32 **Reconvened**

**AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT) -
Continued**

10:30:48 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

10:32:42 Vice Presiding Officer Chip Fitzpatrick

10:32:52 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:34:31 Sen. Denley Loge

10:34:49 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

10:35:15 Vice Presiding Officer Chip Fitzpatrick

10:36:27 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

10:37:53 Sen. Gregg Hunter

10:38:30 Rep. Denise Baum

**AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MOTOR VEHICLES DIVISION (MVD) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE**

10:39:53 Laurie Bakri, Administrator, MVD

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:55:10 Sen. Denley Loge
10:55:34 Laurie Bakri, MVD
10:55:57 Michael Walker, MVD
10:57:16 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:57:23 Laurie Bakri, MVD
10:58:54 Sen. Gregg Hunter
10:59:05 Laurie Bakri, MVD
11:00:31 Rep. Curtis Cochran
11:01:14 Laurie Bakri, MVD
11:02:53 Rep. Denise Baum
11:03:57 Laurie Bakri, MVD
11:05:16 Sen. Andrea Olsen
11:06:35 Laurie Bakri, MVD
11:07:18 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
11:08:36 Laurie Bakri, MVD
11:09:58 Sen. Andrea Olsen

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT) - Continued

11:11:58 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:12:18 Rep. Denise Baum
11:13:37 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
11:15:27 Sen. Denley Loge
11:15:50 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

11:16:58 **Recessed**
12:33:00 **Reconvened**

SJ 19: INTERIM STUDY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) Technology and State Implementation

12:33:27 Blaine Leonard, PE, F. ASCE, Transportation Technology Engineer, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:53:55 Sen. Andrea Olsen
12:54:35 Blaine Leonard, UDOT

Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) Technology and State Implementation - Continued

13:00:37 Blaine Leonard, UDOT

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:20:02 Rep. Denise Baum
13:20:53 Blaine Leonard, UDOT
13:25:37 Sen. Denley Loge

Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) Technology and State Implementation - Continued

13:26:02 Blaine Leonard, UDOT

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:34:34 None

Missouri River Ferry Programs

13:35:22 Becca Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
13:36:25 Ross Butcher, Fergus County Commissioner
13:37:42 Miles Hutton, Blaine County Commissioner
13:41:11 Travis Willson, Fergus County Commissioner

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:41:54 Sen. Denley Loge
13:42:05 Miles Hutton, Blaine County Commissioner
13:42:41 Travis Willson, Fergus County Commissioner
13:43:06 Ross Butcher, Fergus County Commissioner
13:43:39 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
13:43:58 Rep. Denise Baum
13:44:17 Miles Hutton, Blaine County Commissioner
13:45:56 Sen. Andrea Olsen
13:46:16 Miles Hutton, Blaine County Commissioner
13:46:38 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
13:47:24 Ross Butcher, Fergus County Commissioner
13:49:00 Miles Hutton, Blaine County Commissioner
13:50:42 Rep. Denise Baum

Funding for public transportation – TransADE and 5311 (MDT handout)

13:52:02 Doug McBroom, Administrator, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
13:52:29 Becca Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

TranPlanMT 2025 Survey Results

13:54:12 Doug McBroom, Administrator, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:59:37 Sen. Andrea Olsen
13:59:49 Doug McBroom, MDT
14:00:33 Sen. Denley Loge
14:00:55 Doug McBroom, MDT
14:01:16 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:01:42 Doug McBroom, MDT
14:04:50 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, MDT

Research Update

14:12:32 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, LSD
14:12:52 Becca Brown, LSD
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:18:23 Rep. Denise Baum
14:19:02 Becca Brown, LSD

Public Survey Preliminary Review

14:20:00 Becca Brown, LSD
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:34:45 None

Public Comment

14:35:09 John MacDonald, Alliance for Automotive Innovation (AAI)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:38:34 Rep. Denise Baum

Public Comment - Continued

14:40:25 Cassie Wick, Ability Montana

MONTANA'S COMPREHENSIVE HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

14:44:04 Doug McBroom, Administrator, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:50:05 Sen. Denley Loge
14:50:33 Doug McBroom, MDT

14:51:18 Rep. Denise Baum
14:51:19 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
14:51:30 Doug McBroom, MDT

14:52:24 **Recessed**

15:11:55 **Reconvened**

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Brief Overview of Committee's Previously Discussed Topics

15:12:34 Becca Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:13:53 Sen. Andrea Olsen
15:15:02 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
15:15:07 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, LSD

Motion

15:17:47 Senator Olsen moved that Ms. Brown and Mr. Carroll draft a committee letter on TIC letterhead to the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI) to layout the current landscape regarding insurance coverage for, and payment toward, debris cleanup by tow truck operators required pursuant to 61-9-416(2)(e), MCA, and that the CSI participate in future TIC meetings on this topic.

Vote

15:17:56 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Brief Overview of Committee's Previously Discussed Topics - Continued

15:18:08 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:19:57 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association
15:20:37 Sen. Denley Loge
15:20:47 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association

Brief Overview of Committee's Previously Discussed Topics - Continued

15:22:54 Becca Brown, LSD

Requests for Committee Bill Drafts

15:24:36 Sen. Andrea Olsen
15:26:01 Sen. Gregg Hunter
15:26:35 Sen. Denley Loge
15:29:56 Rep. Denise Baum
15:30:35 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

15:30:45 Rep. Greg Kmetz
15:31:31 Becca Brown, LSD
15:32:53 Sen. Denley Loge
15:34:16 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
15:34:47 Sen. Andrea Olsen

Review Of Draft Committee Letter Regarding Proposed Railway Merger

15:35:09 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

[EXHIBIT 18](#)

15:35:45 Becca Brown, LSD

Motion

15:36:53 Sen. Denley Loge moved for the Transportation Interim Committee to send the proposed letter concerning the proposed merger of the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern rail corporation to Montana federal representatives and the surface transportation board.

Vote

15:37:05 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Two-Day Travel Meeting

15:37:35 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

15:37:55 Becca Brown, LSD

[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:39:40 None

PUBLIC COMMENT* ON ANY OTHER TOPIC WITHIN THE TIC'S JURISDICTION

15:40:36 Scott Wolff, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:43:29 Sen. Denley Loge

15:43:47 Scott Wolff, Montana Tow Truck Association

PUBLIC COMMENT* ON ANY OTHER TOPIC WITHIN THE TIC'S JURISDICTION - Continued

15:44:41 Brad Longcake, Montana Tow Truck Association

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:46:45 Vice Presiding Officer Chip Fitzpatrick

15:48:15 Brad Longcake, Montana Tow Truck Association

15:49:22 Scott Wolff, Montana Tow Truck Association

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:51:14