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TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Gregg Hunter
Denley Loge
Andrea Olsen
Russ Tempel - Presiding Officer

HOUSE MEMBERS

Denise Baum
Curtis Cochran
Chip Fitzpatrick - Vice Presiding Officer
Greg Kmetz
Zack Wirth

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

MINUTES LOG

July 08, 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:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:31:09 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

08:34:15 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:36:16 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:36:17 Joseph Carroll, LSD

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

08:37:54 Laurie Bakri, Administrator, MVD

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:48:50 Sen. Denley Loge

08:50:09 Laurie Bakri, MVD

08:52:08 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:53:00 Laurie Bakri, MVD

08:53:48 Sen. Denley Loge

08:54:41 Rep. Greg Kmetz

08:54:46 Laurie Bakri, MVD

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT)

Department Updates

08:55:04 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:04:29 Sen. Andrea Olsen

09:07:25 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

09:07:33 Sen. Denley Loge

09:07:34 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

09:11:40 Rep. Greg Kmetz

09:12:18 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

09:13:14 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
09:13:47 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
09:15:28 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:15:54 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
09:16:39 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
09:16:49 Rep. Curtis Cochran
09:17:05 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
09:20:06 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

Agency-Requested Legislation

09:20:50 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, MDT

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:24:00 None

DISCUSSION ABOUT WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

09:24:23 Ken McDonald, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:30:28 Sen. Denley Loge
09:33:16 Ken McDonald, FWP
09:33:23 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
09:33:48 Ken McDonald, FWP
09:34:54 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
09:37:17 Sen. Denley Loge

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

DISCUSSION ABOUT TOW TRUCK CLEANUP AND INSURANCE COVERAGE

09:38:04 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:55:12 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:56:22 Trevor Graff, CSI
10:04:09 Sen. Denley Loge
10:04:31 Trevor Graff, CSI
10:05:23 Rep. Denise Baum
10:05:30 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:05:58 Trevor Graff, CSI

Public Comment

10:11:50 Kali Wicks, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)

10:12:38 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
10:15:33 Scott Wolff, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)
10:18:17 Shel Hanser, Hanser's Towing
10:21:50 Grant Herden, Sinclair Towing
10:25:32 Brad Longcake, MTTA

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:27:17 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:27:19 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
10:35:27 Sen. Denley Loge
10:36:22 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
10:37:35 Rep. Zack Wirth
10:38:01 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:38:14 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
10:42:04 Rep. Denise Baum
10:44:01 Trevor Graff, CSI
10:47:15 Sen. Gregg Hunter
10:47:19 Eric Belford, Motor Carrier Services, MDT

10:52:55 **Recessed**
11:00:49 **Reconvened**

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (AVS)

11:01:24 Darran Anderson, Senior Director of Strategy and Innovation, Texas Department of Transportation (TX DOT)
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
11:21:37 Tara Olds, Connected and Automated Vehicles Director, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:44:14 Sen. Denley Loge
11:44:54 Darran Anderson, TX DOT
11:45:32 Tara Olds, MN DOT
11:57:54 Sen. Andrea Olsen
11:58:47 Darran Anderson, TX DOT
12:00:19 Tara Olds, MN DOT

DISCUSSION OF CONGRESSIONAL SELF DRIVE ACT – SAFETY CASE FOR AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (AVS)

12:03:21 Charlie Mlcek, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Bob Latta, Ohio's 5th Congressional District, (OH-5)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:14:17 Sen. Andrea Olsen

12:14:56 Charlie Mlcek, OH-5

12:17:43 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

12:17:56 **Recessed**

13:14:46 **Reconvened**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 19: INTERIM STUDY ON WAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MONTANA

Improving Existing Public Transportation Services in Jefferson County, WA

13:15:03 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

13:16:15 Nicole Gauthier, General Manager, Jefferson Transit Authority

13:22:42 Jordan Papazoglou, P.Eng., Senior Transit Innovator, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:26:58 Rep. Denise Baum

13:32:50 Nicole Gauthier, Jefferson Transit Authority

13:35:57 Sen. Andrea Olsen

13:38:59 Nicole Gauthier, Jefferson Transit Authority

13:39:03 Jordan Papazoglou, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.

13:43:29 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

Interactive Map of Services & Statutory “Roadmap” Spreadsheet

13:56:07 Becca Brown, LSD

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:58:35 Sen. Andrea Olsen

13:58:36 Becca Brown, LSD

Interactive Map of Services & Statutory “Roadmap” Spreadsheet - Continued

13:56:07 Becca Brown, LSD

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:58:35 Sen. Andrea Olsen
13:58:36 Becca Brown, LSD
13:58:39 Rep. Denise Baum

Public Survey Results

13:58:40 Becca Brown, LSD
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:03:37 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:03:48 Becca Brown, LSD

Final Report Draft

14:06:50 Becca Brown, LSD
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:12:58 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:18:30 Sen. Denley Loge

Public Comment

14:20:04 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:20:55 Sen. Denley Loge
14:21:51 Becca Brown, LSD
14:21:59 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:22:00 Becca Brown, LSD

Final Report Draft - Continued

14:23:57 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:26:20 Sen. Denley Loge
14:26:21 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:28:44 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
14:30:02 Rep. Denise Baum
14:30:30 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
14:31:00 Becca Brown, LSD

Final Report Draft - Continued

14:31:55 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:33:26 Sen. Denley Loge
14:35:00 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
14:41:32 Sen. Andrea Olsen

Final Report Draft - Continued

14:42:55 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:43:20 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:43:51 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
14:47:06 Rep. Greg Kmetz
14:47:10 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, MDT
14:48:23 Sen. Denley Loge
14:48:58 Sen. Gregg Hunter

Final Report Draft - Continued

14:53:36 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:56:07 Sen. Andrea Olsen
14:56:08 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
14:57:16 Jason Rittal, MACo

Final Report Draft - Continued

15:00:16 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:01:00 Sen. Gregg Hunter
15:01:30 Becca Brown, LSD
15:02:00 Sen. Andrea Olsen
15:02:10 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

Final Report Draft - Continued

15:02:36 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:02:56 Sen. Denley Loge
15:03:29 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

Final Report Draft - Continued

15:05:36 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:06:04 None

Final Report Draft - Continued

15:06:22 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:07:00 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:09:26 Sen. Denley Loge

15:11:29 Brad Longcake, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

15:11:58 Rep. Denise Baum

15:13:29 Sen. Gregg Hunter

15:13:35 Brad Longcake, MTTA

15:15:11 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

15:16:06 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:20:34 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

Final Report Draft - Continued

15:20:45 Becca Brown, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:21:00 None

Public Comment

15:22:29 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association

[EXHIBIT 20](#)

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**Committee Bill Draft Topics**

15:24:46 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 20)

[EXHIBIT 21](#)

[EXHIBIT 22](#)

[EXHIBIT 23](#)

[EXHIBIT 24](#)

[EXHIBIT 25](#)

[EXHIBIT 26](#)

15:26:47 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:27:46 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:29:50 Larry Flynn, MDT

15:29:55 Rep. Denise Baum
15:29:58 Larry Flynn, MDT

Public Comment

15:32:01 None

Provisional Draft 0001 – GROSS VEHICL WEIGHT (GVW) Fees

15:32:07 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 21)

[EXHIBIT 27](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:37:20 Sen. Denley Loge
15:37:22 Becca Brown, LSD
15:37:27 Larry Flynn, MDT
15:38:05 Sen. Andrea Olsen
15:38:07 Becca Brown, LSD
15:38:43 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

Public Comment

15:46:43 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)
15:48:37 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

Provisional Draft 0002 – Fuel Taxes

15:49:48 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 20)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:03:34 Sen. Denley Loge
16:04:28 Doug McBroom, Administrator, MDT
16:05:42 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
16:05:50 Rep. Zack Wirth
16:06:34 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
16:08:25 Sen. Gregg Hunter
16:08:46 Becca Brown, LSD
16:09:54 David Smith, MCA
[EXHIBIT 28](#)
16:12:07 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
16:13:19 Rep. Zack Wirth
16:13:47 Becca Brown, LSD
16:14:31 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

16:14:36 Becca Brown, LSD
16:15:37 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:16:38 Larry Flynn, MDT
16:23:13 Sen. Gregg Hunter

Public Comment

16:24:31 Larry Flynn, MDT

Provisional Draft 0004 – Pilot Program for Automated Safety Enforcement

16:25:21 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 22)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:36:03 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:36:04 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

Public Comment

16:38:25 David Smith, MCA
16:39:15 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
16:39:21 Sen. Gregg Hunter

Provisional Draft 0005 – Prohibit Distracted Driving Related to Mobile Phones

16:39:44 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 23)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:44:39 Sen. Gregg Hunter
16:45:29 Sen. Sara Novak, Senate District 36

Public Comment

16:46:47 None

Provisional Draft 0006 – Establish Rebuttable Presumption That State Scales Are Calibrated Accurately

16:47:18 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 24)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:51:17 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
16:51:18 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
16:52:43 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:52:57 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
16:53:00 Rep. Denise Baum
16:54:08 Dwayne Williams, MTA

Provisional Draft 0007 – Require MDT To Update the Montana State Rail Plan

16:55:29 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 25)

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:01:29 Rep. Denise Baum
17:03:00 Becca Brown, LSD
17:04:04 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
17:06:11 Doug McBroom, MDT
17:19:02 Sen. Andrea Olsen

Public Comment

17:29:06 Jason Rittal, MACo
[EXHIBIT 28](#)
17:30:30 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

Motion

17:31:00 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel moved for the committee to adopt the proposed bill from MACo as a committee bill.

Discussion on the Motion

17:31:13 Rep. Zack Wirth
17:31:45 Jason Rittal, MACo

Vote

17:32:56 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comment

17:33:11 Nate Serlin, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:36:09 Sen. Andrea Olsen
17:36:20 Nate Serlin, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

Final TIC Meeting 07/11/2026

17:37:24 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

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

17:37:30 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:37:38