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TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
Gregg Hunter	Denise Baum	Rebecca (Becca) Brown – Lead Staff
Denley Loge	Curtis Cochran	Joseph Carroll – Legal Staff
Andrea Olsen	Chip Fitzpatrick - Vice Presiding Officer	Maddelyn Pennington - Secretary
Russ Tempel - Presiding Officer	Greg Kmetz	
	Zack Wirth	

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

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MANAGEMENT: JERRY HOWE, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR • AMY CARLSON, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST • TODD EVERTS, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER • RACHEL WEISS, RESEARCH DIRECTOR • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR • KELLY DASILVA, HR DIRECTOR

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 29

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