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**TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**
**69th Montana Legislature**

| SENATE MEMBERS | HOUSE MEMBERS | COMMITTEE STAFF |
|---|---|---|
| Gregg Hunter | Denise Baum | Rebecca 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

September 11, 2026
Room 154 & Zoom
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**

00:00:00 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel called the meeting to order at 8:29 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

00:01:20 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 6

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

00:02:20 None

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

00:02:47 Laurie Bakri, Administrator, MVD

EXHIBIT 7

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

00:17:29 Rep. Greg Kmetz

00:17:58 Laurie Bakri, MVD

00:18:04 Sen. Andrea Olsen

00:18:07 Laurie Bakri, MVD

00:18:54 Rep. Denise Baum

00:20:12 Laurie Bakri, MVD

00:21:53 Sen. Denley Loge

00:22:37 Laurie Bakri, MVD

00:24:39 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

00:24:51 Laurie Bakri, MVD

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

00:26:38 Chris Dorrington, Director, MDT

EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 9

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

00:43:37 Sen. Denley Loge

00:44:09 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
00:44:28 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
00:44:38 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
00:44:46 Rep. Denise Baum
00:46:00 Director Chris Dorrington

**DISCUSSION ON ELECTRIC BIKES, SCOOTERS, MOTORCYCLES**

00:48:19 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
00:50:09 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
00:50:47 Sgt. Harris Wilson, MT Highway Patrol
00:51:32 Sen. Denley Loge
00:55:07 Sen. Andrea Olsen
00:56:34 Rep. Denise Baum
01:02:34 Sen. Gregg Hunter

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

01:03:40 Sen. Andrea Olsen
EXHIBIT 10
01:04:34 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
01:08:13 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
01:08:21 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
01:08:16 Loran Frazier, Presiding Chairman, Montana Transportation Commission, MDT

**Motion**

01:11:19 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to send a letter to the governor to ensure there is enough money in Montana's budget for MDT to be able to act on the forementioned need to meet the required state match to qualify for available federal redistribution funds.

**Discussion on the Motion**

01:13:00 Rep. Greg Kmetz
01:13:15 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
01:13:29 Sen. Denley Loge
01:13:35 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
01:17:29 Rep. Zack Wirth
01:18:37 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT
01:20:04 Sen. Andrea Olsen

**Vote**

01:21:43 Failed 4 – 5 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Chip Fitzpatrick, Rep Denise Baum, Sen. Andrea Olsen, and Rep. Greg Kmetz voting yes.

**AUTO INSURANCE DISCUSSION**

01:22:02 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

EXHIBIT 11

01:23:04 Sen. Andrea Olsen

01:26:21 Rep. Denise Baum

01:26:22 Brad Longcake, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

01:30:30 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

01:30:39 Trevor Graff, CSI

EXHIBIT 12

01:34:40 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

01:34:41 Brad Longcake, MTTA

01:35:42 Sen. Denley Loge

**Public Comment**

01:38:03 Kali Wicks, LLC TLC

01:41:52 Rep. Denise Baum

01:43:35 Kali Wicks, LLC TLC

01:43:39 Sen. Gregg Hunter

01:44:54 Kali Wicks, LLC TLC

01:44:58 Sen. Andrea Olsen

01:44:59 Kali Wicks, LLC TLC

01:46:22 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Carriers

01:47:00 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

01:47:53 Sen. Andrea Olsen

01:48:36 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Carriers

01:50:35 **Recessed**

02:09:43 **Reconvened**

**COMMITTEE REVIEW OF AGENCY-REQUESTED LEGISLATION TOPICS**

02:10:00 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 13

EXHIBIT 14

EXHIBIT 15

02:11:47 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

(See Exhibit 15)

02:12:29 Eric Belford, Administrator, Motor Carrier Services Division (MCS), MDT

(See Exhibit 15)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

02:14:32 Sen. Denley Loge
02:16:05 Eric Belford, MCS
02:16:12 Sen. Gregg Hunter
02:17:50 Eric Belford, MCS
02:18:43 Rep. Denise Baum
02:20:14 Eric Belford, MCS
02:23:01 Sen. Denley Loge

**COMMITTEE REVIEW OF AGENCY-REQUESTED LEGISLATION TOPICS - Continued**

02:23:08 Eric Belford, MCS
(See Exhibit 15)
02:24:48 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, MDT
(See Exhibit 15)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

02:26:45 Sen. Andrea Olsen
02:26:50 Larry Flynn, MDT
02:27:13 Sen. Denley Loge
02:27:27 Larry Flynn, MDT
02:30:01 Sen. Andrea Olsen
02:31:36 Larry Flynn, MDT
02:33:46 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
02:33:51 Larry Flynn, MDT
02:34:17 Sen. Andrea Olsen
02:35:10 Larry Flynn, MDT
02:35:25 Rep. Zack Wirth

**MCS Officer Enforce Moving Violations on CMVs**

02:36:11 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**

02:36:21 Rep. Denise Baum moved to accept the proposed legislation, MCS Officer Enforce Moving Violations on CMVs, as a committee.

**Vote**

02:36:42 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Clarify MCS Authority to Require Weigh Station Stops**

02:36:47 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:36:57 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Clarify MCS Authority to Require Weigh Station Stops, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:37:02 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Death Benefit Leave Payout**
02:37:09 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:37:15 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Death Benefit Leave Payout, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:37:29 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Remove the Transportation Commission's Authority to Adopt Outdoor Advertising Control Administrative Rules**
02:37:33 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:37:42 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Remove the Transportation Commission's Authority to Adopt Outdoor Advertising Control Administrative Rules, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:37:50 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Aircraft Registration Stickers**
02:38:01 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:38:10 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Aircraft Registration Stickers, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:38:18 Carried 8-1 by voice vote with Sen. Andrea Olsen voting no.

**Official State Highway Map**
02:38:40 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:38:45 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Official State Highway Map, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:39:03 Carried 8-1 by voice vote with Presiding Officer Russ Tempel voting no.

**Increase the Threshold When Real Property Goes to Auction**
02:39:21 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:39:29 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Increase the Threshold When Real Property Goes to Auction, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:39:34 Carried 8-1 by voice vote with Sen. Andrea Olsen voting no.

**Eliminate 69-14-620, MCA, Establishment of Railroad Quiet Zones**
02:39:58 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:40:09 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Eliminate 69-14-620, MCA, Establishment of Railroad Quiet Zones, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:40:16 Carried 8-1 by voice vote with Sen. Andrea Olsen voting no.

**IRP License Plate Fee Alignment**
02:40:26 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:40:35 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, IRP License Plate Fee Alignment, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:40:43 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Limited Speed-Enforcement Camera Pilot Program in Highway Work Zones**
02:40:50 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**
02:40:58 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to accept the proposed legislation, Limited Speed-Enforcement Camera Pilot Program in Highway Work Zones, as a committee.

**Vote**
02:41:14 Carried 7-2 by voice vote with Sen. Andrea Olsen and Rep. Greg Kmetz voting no.

**Public Comment**
02:42:09 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)
02:44:08 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

02:45:17 Sen. Denley Loge

02:45:19 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

02:46:12 **Recessed**

04:08:45 **Reconvened**

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 19 (SJ 19): INTERIM STUDY ON WAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MONTANA**

04:08:53 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division

EXHIBIT 16

EXHIBIT 17

EXHIBIT 18

EXHIBIT 19

04:15:08 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

04:16:17 Sen. Denley Loge

04:17:01 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

04:17:40 Rep. Denise Baum

**Public Comment**

04:19:26 Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 19 (SJ 19): INTERIM STUDY ON WAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MONTANA - Continued**

04:21:19 Becca Brown, LSD

(See Exhibit 18)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

04:34:21 Sen. Andrea Olsen

04:38:57 Rep. Denise Baum

04:39:43 Sen. Andrea Olsen

04:41:04 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

04:41:32 Rep. Zack Wirth

04:42:10 Sen. Andrea Olsen

04:43:32 Becca Brown, LSD

04:43:36 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**

04:43:46 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved for the SJ 19 report to reflect a finding that acknowledges public transportation is used for a variety of reasons, has economic value, as well as a recommendation that Montana seeks federal funds to provide more public transportation in rural systems.

**Public Comment**
04:45:58 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

**Discussion on the Motion**
04:47:15 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
04:47:32 Sen. Andrea Olsen

**Substitute Motion**
04:49:48 Sen. Denley Loge moved for the committee to accept the SJ 19 Draft Report as originally proposed.

**Discussion on the Motion**
04:50:48 Sen. Andrea Olsen
04:51:19 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, LSD
04:52:01 Sen. Gregg Hunter
04:52:33 Sen. Denley Loge

**Motion**
04:53:01 Carried 8-1 by roll call vote with Sen. Andrea Olsen voting no.

**Public Comment**
04:54:05 Rusty Logan, Billings MET, Montana Transit Association

**COMMITTEE BILL DRAFT TOPICS**
**Provisional Draft 0001 (PD0001)**
04:57:56 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 20
EXHIBIT 21
05:00:05 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Public Comment**
05:00:06 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Motion**
05:00:39 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved for the committee to adopt PD0001 as a committee bill.

**Vote**
05:01:02 Carried unanimously by voice vote.
05:01:05 **Carrier:** Sen. Denley Loge

**Public Comment**
05:01:58 Sen. Denley Loge
05:02:06 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
05:02:10 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

05:05:22 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
05:06:36 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
05:06:49 Sen. Denley Loge

**Motion**
05:07:25 Sen. Gregg Hunter moved for Sen. Denley Loge to work with affected parties to amend PD0001.

**Discussion on the Motion**
05:07:30 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, LSD
05:08:20 Sen. Denley Loge

**Substitute Motion**
05:08:22 Sen. Denley moved to reconsider the vote approving PD0001 as a committee bill.

**Vote**
05:08:34 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
05:09:04 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel
05:09:07 Joseph Carroll, LSD
05:09:15 Sen. Andrea Olsen
05:10:16 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)
05:11:23 Joseph Caroll, LSD
05:11:53 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 21)

**Motion**
05:12:37 Sen Andrea Olsen moved to amend PD0001 by removing section 6, then approving of PD0001 as a committee bill as amended.

**Discussion on the Motion**
05:12:47 Sen. Denley Loge
05:13:19 Sen. Andrea Olsen
05:14:40 Larry Flynn, MDT
05:15:32 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Vote**
05:15:36 Failed unanimously by voice vote.

**Provisional Draft 0002 (PD0002)**
05:16:26 Becca Brown, LSD

EXHIBIT 22

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

05:18:51 Sen. Denley Loge

05:19:36 Sen. Andrea Olsen

**Public Comment**

05:22:14 Loran Frazier, Presiding Chairman, Montana Transportation Commission, MDT

05:24:00 Larry Flynn, MDT

05:26:16 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

05:27:24 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association

05:31:32 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

05:33:12 Rep. Denise Baum

05:34:48 Sen. Gregg Hunter

**Motion**

05:35:56 Rep. Curtis Cochran moved for the committee to not approve of PD0002 as a committee bill.

**Vote**

05:36:15 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

05:36:24 Joseph Carroll, LSD

05:36:55 **Recessed**

05:47:39 **Reconvened**

**COMMITTEE BILL DRAFT TOPICS – Continued**
**Provisional Draft 0005 (PD0005)**

05:48:06 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

05:48:11 Becca Brown, LSD

EXHIBIT 23

05:50:06 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

05:50:14 Sen. Sara Novak, Senate District 36

**Public Comment**

05:51:24 Jon MacDonald, Alliance for Automotive Innovation

EXHIBIT 24

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
05:54:33 Sen. Denley Loge

**Motion**
05:54:47 Rep. Denise Baum moved to pass PD0005 as a committee bill.

**Vote**
05:55:18 Carried unanimously by voice vote.
05:55:20 **Carrier:** Sen. Sara Novak

**Provisional Draft 0006 (PD0006)**
05:55:37 Becca Brown, LSD
EXHIBIT 25

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
05:56:35 Rep. Denise Baum
05:56:42 Eric Belford, Administrator, Motor Carrier Services Division (MCS), MDT

**Motion**
05:58:38 Rep. Denise Baum moved for the committee to not adopt PD0006 as a committee bill

**Vote**
05:59:13 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Provisional Draft 0007 (PD0007)**
05:59:34 Becca Brown, LSD
EXHIBIT 26

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
06:01:46 Rep. Greg Kmetz
06:03:10 Rep. Denise Baum
06:04:13 Larry Flynn, MDT
06:04:12 Mitch Buthod, Bureau Chief, Planning & Modal Transportation, MDT
06:05:18 Rep. Denise Baum
06:07:03 Sen. Denley Loge
06:07:14 Mitch Buthod, MDT
06:10:07 Sen. Gregg Hunter
06:10:39 Mitch Buthod, MDT

**Public Comment**
06:11:50 None

**Motion**
06:12:03 Rep. Denise Baum moved to adopt PD0007 as a committee bill.

**Vote**
06:12:23 Failed 4 – 5 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Chip Fitzpatrick, Rep. Denise Baum, Sen. Denley Loge and Sen. Andrea Olsen voting yes.

**Provisional Draft 0011 (PD0011)**
06:13:32 Becca Brown, LSD

EXHIBIT 27

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
06:14:20 Rep. Greg Kmetz

**Public Comment**
06:14:47 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties

06:15:37 Director Chris Dorrington, MDT

**Motion**
06:16:09 Sen. Gregg Hunter moved to adopt PD0011 as a committee bill.

**Vote**
06:16:18 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

06:16:27 **Carrier:** Sen. Gregg Hunter

**Provisional Draft 0012 (PD0012)**
06:17:12 Becca Brown, LSD

EXHIBIT 28

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
06:17:52 Sen. Andrea Olsen

**Public Comment**
06:21:53 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

**Committee Questions / Discussion**
06:22:18 Rep. Denise Baum

**Motion**
06:22:40 Sen. Andrea Olsen moved to adopt PD0012 as a committee bill

**Vote**
06:23:00 Carried 5-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Curtis Cochran, Sen. Denley Loge, Rep. Zack Wirth, and Sen. Greg Kmetz voting no.

06:24:05 **Carrier:** Sen Andrea Olsen

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

06:24:43 Nate Serlin, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

06:25:32 Loran Frazier, Presiding Chairman, Montana Transportation Commission, MDT

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

06:27:08 Sen. Andrea Olsen

**COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

06:27:33 Rebecca (Becca) Brown, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 29

EXHIBIT 30

EXHIBIT 31

06:37:50 Presiding Officer Russ Tempel

**Motion**

06:50:30 Sen. Gregg Hunter moved for the committee to accept the final summary report.

**Vote**

06:50:44 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 06:51:26