



**Joint Meeting
State Transportation Commission (STC)
And
Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC)**

Thursday, March 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

I. OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by STC Chairman Wahby at 9:02 a.m.

Chairman Wahby welcomed the audience and the MAC members. He asked the STC members to introduce themselves. All members were present except Commissioner Brosnan who will be joining the meeting late.

Members of the MAC also introduced themselves. Commissioners Everman, Prochazka, and Johnston were absent.

STC Chairman Wahby invited Larry Tibbits, MDOT's Chief Operations Officer to the podium, where he was joined with MDOT Director Kirk Steudle. Chairman Wahby presented a letter from the STC to Mr. Tibbits in honor of his retirement after 39 years of service to MDOT.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Director's Report – MDOT Director Kirk Steudle

STC Chairman Wahby asked MDOT Director Kirk Steudle to give his report.

Director Steudle welcomed both commissions to the meeting. He presented a report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, (formerly referred to as the stimulus plan) now known as ARRA and an update on the winter maintenance projects.

He began his report with the ARRA plan which was signed in February. A detailed overview of the plan was presented. Michigan was selected as one of 16 states to have the General Accounting Office visit (every other week) to follow our process, reporting, etc. At the end of his presentation he entertained questions and comments on the recovery act.

Director Steudle then spoke of winter operations maintenance adding that this had been a difficult winter for maintenance; a good portion of the yearly maintenance funding was spent in December, January and February.

STC Chairman Wahby questioned the estimates on maintenance, asking if there is a way to allocate more funds for maintenance so we do not come up short. Director Steudle explained the process. STC Chairman Wahby commented on maintenance funds being available after the winter season to repair the roads, adding that visitors coming into the state shouldn't be seeing un-mowed grass and litter along our highways; this area should showcase our state during the tourist season. Director Steudle responded that this is the same funding source used to match federal aid. We no longer have the flexibility as in the past; there are not enough state generated funds to take care of transportation needs. Hopefully this will change next year when the new budget is introduced in the legislature; if not, we may be unable to match federal funds. Director Steudle agreed with Chairman Wahby regarding what visitors see when they come into our state. Specifically, the NCAA Final Four will be coming to Detroit; the Metro Region is doing a sweep of that area with additional staff provided by the University and Bay Regions to assist with clean up. He added that stimulus funds cannot be used for maintenance; it is for capital improvement projects only.

Commissioner Atkinson questioned the ARRA funding; asking if there are different procedures for Aeronautics. Director Steudle said yes and asked MAC Director Abent for clarification. Director Abent indicated that this is correct, and explained the situation. The FAA will be making the decision as to where the funds will be spent. At this point we don't have the information yet. They have the same time frame, two years to expend the money, 50% of which needs to be obligated by June.

Director Steudle thanked both Commissions.

Climate Control and Transportation – Polly Kent

STC Chairman Wahby called on Polly Kent

Ms. Kent thanked both Commissions for giving her time on the agenda to discuss Sustainability and Climate Change. This presentation is prompted by the completion of the Michigan Climate Action Council Recommendations to the Governor on Climate Change.

Ms. Kent gave detailed information on what is being done on a national level and what Michigan is doing in that regard. She highlighted things being done by the Federal Highway Administration. She also spoke on the national level of carbon pricing, AASHTO goals and Michigan's role. The broad goal developed is to reduce green house gas emissions in Michigan by 20% by 2020, and by 80% by 2050. These goals are in line with those recently made by the Obama administration to reduce green house gas emission by 19.7% by 2020.

Ms. Kent mentioned the way in which the Climate Action Counsel was structured. Several working groups were created to look at issues to develop recommendations specific to those sectors.

A full report is available on line at www.miclimatchange.us.

Ms. Kent thanked the Commissions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

STC Chairman Wahby announced that the STC meeting will relocate to the second floor, the MAC meeting will remain in the auditorium.

On behalf of the MAC, Director Abent thanked the STC for joining us.

The March 26, 2009 joint meeting of the STC and MAC concluded at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Frank E. Kelley
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