

SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING DISTRIBUTION STUDY

This memorandum summarizes selected information in the minutes of the Transportation Committee for the August 20, 2015, and the November 12, 2015, meetings regarding the special transportation funding distribution study.

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING DISTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS STUDY Summary of Recommendations

There have been no recommendations provided to the committee regarding its special transportation funding distributions study.

Summary of Minutes

Mr. Darcy Rosendahl, Deputy Director for Business Support, Department of Transportation, provided written testimony on special transportation funding distributions to political subdivisions. Mr. Rosendahl said all 53 counties have submitted approved projects for the counties' allocations provided in 2015 Senate Bill No. 2103 and 33 of the 43 eligible counties have submitted approved projects for the counties' allocations provided in 2015 House Bill No. 1176.

In response to a question from Chairman Ruby, Representative Brandenburg said townships in non-oil-producing counties will receive \$15,000 during the 2015-17 biennium to be distributed by the State Treasurer and townships in oil-producing counties receive funding allocations through the oil tax distribution formula.

In response to a question from Representative Brandenburg, Mr. Denver Tolliver, Director, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, said the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) is conducting a new survey of counties to gather more detail from the counties relating to county road repair and maintenance processes. He said the purpose is to develop a standard which will be used to provide a consistent comparison of each county's needs. He said UGPTI will make the survey results available to the Transportation Committee when available.

Mr. Grant Levi, Director, Department of Transportation, presented information relating to the history of county major collector roadway miles in the state. He said adding and removing county major collector roadway miles is done at the request of each county through the Department of Transportation (DOT). He said DOT reviews the request and if it approves the request, submits it to the Federal Highway Administration for final approval or denial.

In response to a question from Representative Kretschmar, Mr. Levi said the state has approximately 10,800 county major collector roadway miles.

In response to a question from Chairman Ruby, Mr. Levi said new county major collector roadway miles requests are typically county minor collector roads being upgraded to county major collector roadway miles roads and occasionally a township road request.

Mr. Tolliver said the 2015 Legislative Assembly provided funding for an asset management initiative, which is expected to be operational by December 1, 2015.

In response to a question from Representative Brandenburg, Mr. Tolliver said when estimating total costs, each county will report as specifically as it can regarding its transportation needs. He said the needs are based on the county's method for maintenance, repairs, and replacement in order to present an accurate statewide total of transportation needs.

In response to a question from Representative Brandenburg, Mr. Tolliver said UGPTI is working to expand its bridge analysis to include structures which are less than 20 feet in length. He said a significant number of bridges are less than 20 feet in length and UGPTI is attempting to collect that data. He said UGPTI attempts to capture some of the maintenance and repair costs of culverts in the normalized maintenance costs.

In response to a question from Representative Brandenburg, Mr. Tim Horner, Program Director, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, said the Federal Highway Administration defines a bridge as being 20 feet or more in length for the National Bridge Inventory. He said all other bridges or culverts are considered minor structures and complete data is not available on the minor structures. He said UGPTI is attempting to capture that data in each county's "Local Roads Asset Inventory Toolkit" which is part of the asset management initiative.