MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ROGER SOMERVILLE,** on January 10, 2001
    at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:
    Rep. Roger Somerville, Chairman (R)
    Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke, Vice Chairman (R)
    Rep. Carol C. Juneau, Vice Chairman (D)
    Rep. Darrel Adams (R)
    Rep. Joe Balyeat (R)
    Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
    Rep. Ronald Devlin (R)
    Rep. Dave Gallik (D)
    Rep. Steven Gallus (D)
    Rep. George Golie (D)
    Rep. Donald L. Hedges (R)
    Rep. Jim Keane (D)
    Rep. Gary Matthews (D)
    Rep. William Price (R)
    Rep. Allen Rome (R)
    Rep. Frank Smith (D)
    Rep. Donald Steinbeisser (R)
    Rep. Karl Waitschies (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Donna Huffman, Committee Secretary
                Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
                discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

                Orientation Meeting
Chairman Roger Somerville opens by saying Russ Ritter will talk
about MT Rail Link, then we will discuss the Motor Carrier
Services left from Monday's (01/08/01) orientation agenda.

Colonel Bert Obert from the Montana Highway Patrol will speak at the end of the meeting. Chairman Somerville said we will be going to the Department of Transportation on Friday, January 12, 2001, to check out the facilities. Chairman Somerville introduced Russ Ritter from MT Rail Link.

Mr. Ritter said he wanted to give a quick overview of what railroad transportation is in the state of Montana. Mr. Ritter gave a brief description of MT Rail Link, presentation included a map of major railroads and MT Rail Link. Chairman Somerville will find out about someone coming and talking to the committee about Methane Gas Issue.

Jim Currie, Deputy Director for Department of Transportation introduced Drew Livesay, Administrator of Motor Carrier Services (MCS). Mr. Livesay gave a Program Overview and Operational Summmary of MCS. MCS is divided into two bureaus, the Enforcement Bureau and the Licensing and Permitting Bureau. Mr. Livesay spoke about Initiatives including the Internet Permit Program, Prepass, State Truck Activity Reporting System (STARS) and Commercial Vehicle Information System Network (CVISN). Another issue Mr. Livesay discussed is FY 2000 Revenue. See Orientation notebook,**EXHIBIT(trh07a01)** (hearing 01/05/01). Jim Currie introduced Bill Salisbury, Administrator of Administration Division.

Mr. Salisbury gave an overview of Funding Issues including Funding Sources and Special Revenue Account Status. Funding issues include Revenue Sources such as Federal Funds, State Fuel Tax, Motor Carrier Services and Accounts Receivable. Mr. Salisbury handed out a chart of FY01 Estimated Revenues and Uses. **EXHIBIT(trh07a02)** Mr. Salisbury spoke about Special Revenue Account Status, including charts of FFY 2000 Highway State Special Revenue Expenditures, FFY 2001 and FFY 2002 Highway State Special Revenue Expenditures Estimates. See Orientation notebook, **Exhibit (1)**(hearing 01/05/01). Jim Currie introduced Gary Gilmore, Chief Engineer for the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Gilmore gave an overview of Project Development and Contracting. The issue's he addressed are those which they get the most questions about. These issue's are Design Standards, Right-of-way Process, Speed Zones, Indian Reservation Issues, Contract Bidding Process. Mr. Gilmore also gave a presentation on Safety Issues which included topics about Speeds, Crashes, and Seat Belts. See Orientation notebook, **Exhibit (1)** (hearing 01/05/01) Chairman Somerville introduced Colonel Bert J. Obert, Chief Administrator of Montana Highway Patrol.

Mr. Obert gave a handout to everyone that included topics such as a brief history of the patrol, highway traffic safety, recent accomplishments, MHP budgets, etc.**EXHIBIT(trh07a03)EXHIBIT(trh07a04)**.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:30 P.M.

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                              REP. ROGER SOMERVILLE, Chairman

                              _____
                              DONNA HUFFMAN, Secretary

RS/DH

EXHIBIT(trh07aad)