

Idaho Transportation Board

129,000 Pound Truck Route Subcommittee

November 13, 2018

Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) 129,000 Pound Truck Route Subcommittee Chairman Jim Kempton called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise, Idaho. ITB Members Dwight Horsch and Julie DeLorenzo were present. Note: due to Vice Chairman Jim Coleman's prior commitment, Member DeLorenzo participated in the meeting in his absence.

Principal Subcommittee staff members and advisors present or participating via video conference from the District 4 Office in Shoshone included Deputy Attorney General Larry Allen, Freight Program Manager (FPM) Jeff Marker, Public Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Adam Rush, Division of Engineering Services Administrator (DESA) Blake Rindlisbacher, Executive Assistant to the Board Sue S. Higgins, and District 4 Engineer (DE) Devin Rigby.

ITB Chairman Jerry Whitehead and Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho Executive Director Matt Stoll were also present at Headquarters.

Chairman Kempton said that because the Subcommittee is comprised of three members, motions will not require a second.

Case #201707: SH-75, Milepost (MP) 73.66 to 115.856. PIC Rush presented the comments received on the SH-75 route request in District 4. The majority opposed the 129,000 pound designation, with concerns mainly related to safety and the condition of the pavement.

FPM Marker said the Division of Motor Vehicles confirmed that this section of SH-75 falls under the red route category allowing 115-foot overall vehicle length and a 6.5-foot off-track. The bridge analysis determined that the nine bridges on the route will safely support vehicle combinations up to 129,000 pounds, assuming the axle configuration conforms to the legal requirements. The pavement is mostly in good to fair condition with a 0.3 mile section rated as poor and deficient. There are no safety concerns and the Chief Engineer's analysis recommends approving the route.

Chairman Kempton mentioned several public comments expressed concern with bicycles, the ability of trucks to climb Timmerman Hill, and the condition of pavements. He said the additional axles required on vehicle combinations hauling up to 129,000 pounds result in less of an impact to the roadway than 105,500 pound vehicles. He asked DE Rigby to respond to concerns with Timmerman Hill.

DE Rigby said it is a fairly steep grade coming out of a 45 mile per hour speed limit, so trucks are at a slower speed heading south as they approach the hill. He acknowledged that some motorists get impatient following a slower truck and pass in unsafe conditions. He believes law enforcement has a good presence in that area and monitors speeds. Allowing commercial motor

vehicles to haul at the higher weight limit should result in fewer trucks, which would be advantageous.

Member DeLorenzo asked about the portion of the route without shoulders. DE Rigby replied that there is a short stretch of highway near the airport in Hailey that does not have shoulders. He believes that area has curbs and gutters. DESA Rindlisbacher added that curb and gutter sections generally have lower speed limits. DE Rigby concurred, noting that the referenced section of highway has a 25 mile per hour speed limit.

Member Horsch asked if staff knows how many citations have been issued to commercial motor vehicles for travelling less than 30 miles per hour on Timmerman Hill. DE Rigby said he did not know, but he would get that information. Member Horsch said it was a pointed question because he believes the majority of trucks are within the legal requirements and that motorists get impatient following trucks.

Member DeLorenzo made a motion to recommend that the Transportation Board approves the 129,000 pound truck route request for SH-75, milepost 73.66 to 115.856. The motion passed unopposed.

January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Kempton said the minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting were distributed for review earlier. Without objection, the minutes were accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Sue S. Higgins

Respectfully submitted by:

SUE S. HIGGINS

Executive Assistant & Secretary

Idaho Transportation Board