

Idaho Transportation Board

Subcommittee on 129,000 Pound Truck Routes

January 21, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Subcommittee met remotely.

There was a brief discussion on starting the meeting early due to the regular Idaho Transportation Board meeting adjourning approximately 45 minutes ahead of schedule. Executive Assistant to the Board Sue Higgins said she asked Lead Deputy Attorney General Larry Allen about starting the Subcommittee meeting early and he concurred. She added that she sent an email message to the 129,000 Pound Truck Routes Subcommittee mailing list stating that the meeting will start early. This list includes citizens that have requested to be informed of Subcommittee meetings.

Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) Subcommittee on 129,000 Pound Truck Routes Chairman Dwight Horsch called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM on Thursday, January 21, 2021. ITB Members Jim Thompson and Jan Vassar participated.

ITB Chairman Bill Moad attended, along with principal Subcommittee staff members and advisors Deputy Attorney General Tim Thomas, Chief Engineer Blake Rindlisbacher, Freight Program Manager (FPM) Scott Luekenga, Executive Assistant to the Board Higgins, and Local Highway Technical Assistance Council Administrator Jeff Miles.

Minutes: December 2, 2020. Member Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting.

Because the Subcommittee is comprised of three members, Chairman Horsch said a second is not required for motions.

The motion passed unopposed.

Case #202006: SH-6, Milepost (MP) 0.000 to 9.858; SH-8, MP 2.331 to 25.549; and SH-9, MP 0.000 to 13.522, District 2. FPM Luekenga presented the Chief Engineer's evaluation of the three referenced routes. The Division of Motor Vehicles reported that the highways are classified as blue routes, allowing 95-foot overall vehicle length and a 5.5-foot off-track. The bridge analysis determined that the 13 bridges on the routes will safely support vehicle combinations up to 129,000 pounds, assuming the axle configuration conforms to the legal requirements. The pavement conditions range from good to poor. These highways have no non-interstate high accident intersection locations; however, SH-9 has four high accident location clusters. Between 2014 and 2019 there were a total of 214 crashes on these routes. Three of those crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle; however, no fatalities resulted. The Chief Engineer's evaluation recommends approving the application.

Aubrie Spence Senior Public Information Officer said close to 40 comments were received during the public comment period. A number of comments were in support of the route designation. The main opposition was due to concerns with safety and congestion, specifically the lack of passing lanes.

Member Vassar noted that it would be closer for the applicant, Bennett Lumber Products Inc., to transport its products from its facility on SH-6 west to US-95 versus east on SH-6 and SH-9 and SH-8 to US-95. FPM Luekenga replied that Bennett Lumber is requesting this route as an alternate in case SH-6 west to US-95 is closed or inaccessible.

Member Vassar said that the public comments opposing the route designation appear to be due to misperceptions about these commercial motor vehicles.

Member Vassar moved to send case #202006, SH-6, milepost (MP) 0.000 to 9.858; SH-8, MP 2.331 to 25.549; and SH-9, MP 0.000 to 13.522, to the Transportation Board with a recommendation for approval.

The motion passed unopposed.

Revisions to 129,000 Pound Truck Route Manual. FPM Luekenga presented additional revisions to the Manual based on the discussions at the last meeting. The main changes include the addition of the Idaho Trucking Association as a Subcommittee coordinating agency and additional timelines for the process to designate 129,000 pound truck routes if a request is returned to staff or denied.

In response to ITB Chairman Moad's question, FPM Luekenga said he presented the timelines to the Idaho Trucking Advisory Council chairman, who had no objections.

Member Thompson made a motion to present the 129,000 Pound Truck Route Manual revisions to the Transportation Board. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Sue S. Higgins

Respectfully submitted by:
SUE S. HIGGINS
Executive Assistant & Secretary
Idaho Transportation Board