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Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2016
Blatt Building Room 110

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Committee were not present: Representative Raye Felder, Representative Mia S. McLeod, and Representative Joshua A. Putnam.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.

II. Representative Jefferson moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on April 13, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Jefferson’s motion to approve the April 13, 2016, minutes:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk			✓
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod	✓		
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.	✓		
Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Further Discussion of the Subcommittee Study of First Steps

- I. Chairman Newton explained that the Committee could refer the Study back to the Education and Cultural Subcommittee, approve the Study, or further evaluate First Steps.
- II. Representative Smith moved that the Education and Cultural Subcommittee’s Study of First Steps to School Readiness be approved as written, and that any written statement provided by a member by 5:00 pm on May 6, 2016, be included with the Study. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Smith’s motion to approve the Subcommittee Study of First Steps as written, and to include any written statement provided by a member to Committee staff by 5:00 pm on May 6, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Nathan Ballentine	✓		
William K. “Bill” Bowers	✓		
Gary E. Clary	✓		
Raye Felder			✓
Kirkman Finlay, III	✓		
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓		
Phyllis Henderson	✓		
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Mia S. McLeod			✓
Walton J. McLeod	✓		
Ralph W. Norman	✓		
Joshua A. Putnam			✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓		
Samuel Rivers, Jr.	✓		
James E. Smith, Jr.	✓		
Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon	✓		
Bill Taylor	✓		
Robert Q. Williams	✓		
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓		

Discussion of the Subcommittee Study of the Department of Transportation

I. Representative Henderson, Chair of the Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Subcommittee, provided a brief overview of the Subcommittee’s Study of the Department of Transportation to the Committee.

Representative Norman clarified that the members of the Subcommittee consider its study of DOT an ongoing process, and he thanked Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall for her cooperation.

II. Next, questions from various members of the Committee were addressed.

Representative Smith asked how much attention the Subcommittee gave to the governance of DOT during its study of the agency, and if any of the Subcommittee's recommendations dealt with governance.

Representative Finlay asked if the Subcommittee had considered and discussed the possibility of dividing DOT into two parts: one dedicated to the construction of new roadways and another dedicated to the maintenance of existing roadways.

Representative Bowers commented that the SCDOT Commission does not geographically represent the state. He asked if the Subcommittee had reviewed DOT's prioritization of roadway paving.

Representative Williams asked if the Subcommittee had followed the lead of the Legislative Audit Council's audit of DOT in its study, or if it had studied issues outside the scope of the LAC audit.

Representative Finlay asked how the state could evaluate whether DOT was effectively spending the state's money if the agency can't categorize its expenses as those necessary for either construction of new roadways or maintenance of existing roadways.

Representative Rivers commented that the Subcommittee did address the topic of governance in the course of its study of DOT.

Representative Funderburk expressed her concern that the prioritization criteria of Act 114 had unfairly prioritized the repaving of urban roadways over the repaving of rural roadways.

III. Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall addressed the questions that had previously been asked by the members of the Committee. Additionally, Secretary Hall addressed questions from other members of the Committee.

Representative Taylor asked for Secretary Hall to explain DOT's spending as represented in a pie graph in more specific detail. He asked for an explanation of the engineering and administrative costs associated with typical roadway maintenance projects. Representative Taylor asked for the estimated cost to DOT to repave a two-lane roadway. Additionally, he asked for an explanation of the difference in cost to the DOT and to County Transportation Committees in building two-lane roadways. Later in the meeting Secretary Hall clarified her response to Representative Taylor relating to the cost to repave a two-lane road.

Representative Finlay commented that he hears from constituents about their experiences with DOT more than any other issues.

Representative Ballentine asked Secretary Hall how highly "Malfunction Junction" (also referred to as "Carolina Crossroads") ranks on DOT's project priority list.

Representative Norman asked for an explanation of one of Secretary Hall's earlier comments.

Representative Walt McLeod stated that he voted against the creation of the Transportation Infrastructure Bank when it first came to a vote, and that he wanted the Bank to be abolished, with its funds being redirected to DOT.

- V. Questions ended near 10:00 a.m., pursuant to House Rule 4.4 which in part provides that no committee shall meet while the House is in session without special leave by the Speaker.

As some members did not have an opportunity to pose questions about the study of DOT, Chairman Newton noted that discussion of the study of DOT would continue at the next meeting. Also, Chairman Newton suggested the Committee have DOT present at the next meeting to explain its areas of disagreement with recommendations from the recent LAC audit.

- VI. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.