

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 9, 1979

The second meeting of the Highways and Transportation Committee met on the 1st floor of the Capitol Building at 1:30 P.M. to go on a tour of the new Highway Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Hazelbaker who was excused and Senator Manning who was absent. Shaun Simon was not present.

Ron Richards, Director of the Department of Highways conducted the tour. After touring the building, a brief question and answer session followed. All of the Department heads were present.

The committee left the Highway Building at 2:45 p.m. and adjourned.

*Mark Etchart*  
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SENATOR MARK ETCHART, CHAIRMAN

1-9-79

ROLL CALL

Highways

COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Mark Etchart, Chairman	✓		
Tom Hager, Chairman	✓		
Frank W. Hazelbaker			✓
Allen C. Kolstad	✓		
Carroll A. Graham	✓		
Dave Manning		✓	
John E. Healy (Jack)	✓		
Carl Xavier	✓		
Shaun Senior		✓	

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

INFORMATION ASSEMBLY ABOUT THE  
NEW MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHWAY COMPLEX

The address of the new home of the Highway Department is 2701 Prospect Avenue. Telephone for the Director's office is 449-2482.

Whitney and Griffin of Helena were the architects for the new complex. The general contractor was Sletten Construction Company of Great Falls. Reber Plumbing and Heating handled the electrical and mechanical work. Waters Construction Company of Helena is doing the landscaping, which is still underway.

While initial planning for the highway plant began some seven years earlier, actual construction got underway on August 31, 1976. It was occupied officially on September 11, 1978.

Built at a cost of \$6,746,020 (including landscaping, but not the land), it is the largest state building constructed up to-date. It is located on 140 acres of land costing \$445,543.00. The landscaping is estimated to cost \$135,900.00, when completed. The building and land are to be paid for out of the Earmarked Revenue Account (Gasoline and Diesel taxes; GVW, fees, etc.) Approximately 550 employees are housed in the new group of buildings.

The Motor Pool, shop personnel, the Aircraft Unit, and the Travel Promotion Unit are the only employees remaining in their former locations.

The Director states, however, he hopes to have a new maintenance facility on the new complex site in the near future.

The complex is large, with spacious connecting hallways, some carpeted offices and other areas, along with a pleasing decor overall. The Director points out that carpeting not only is as cheap or cheaper than some other types of high-grade flooring, but is also easier to maintain. And soundproofing makes for more efficient working conditions.

Centralization - - placing all the employees under one roof - - will increase the department's efficiency tremendously from a management standpoint, Richards says.