

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 28, 1981

The meeting of the House Highways and Transportation Committee convened on Saturday, March 28, 1981, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 436 of the Capitol Building with CHAIRMAN PAUL KROPP presiding and fourteen members present (REPS. KANDUCH and OBERG were excused).

CHAIRMAN KROPP opened the hearing on HJR 56.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56 REP. JOHN HARP, chief sponsor, presented the resolution. It calls for a comprehensive interim study of the administration and operation of the Department of Highways and the Highway Commission. REPS. ANDERSON and KROPP met with the Legislative Audit Committee and it approved the priority list submitted by the committee. See Exhibit 1.

There were no other PROPONENTS.

There were no OPPONENTS.

The hearing on HJR 56 closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56 REP. STOBIE moved DO PASS.

REP. STOBIE stated that this is a needed study. With the increased costs of construction, the funds available must be spent properly.

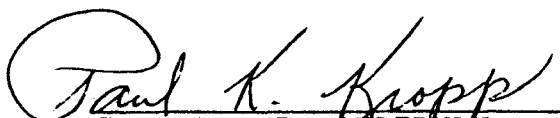
REP. WALLIN felt the administrator of the department should be a professional engineer and not a political appointee. He felt the management was not professional.

REP. FABREGA felt the department needs better management whether that means a professional engineer or simply a better administrator.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


PAUL KROPP, CHAIRMAN

Ellen Engstedt, Secretary



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 25, 1981

TO: Legislative Audit Committee
FROM: House Highways and Transportation Committee
RE: Performance Audits

The House Highways and Transportation Committee has prioritized the areas it would like to see performance audits conducted in pursuant to our letter dated February 12, 1981. The committee would appreciate your consideration of performance audits of the Department of Highways and Highway Commission with the following priority:

1. Highway Department preconstruction activities:
 - a) project planning;
 - b) project control; and,
 - c) contracting for professional services.
2. Highway Department acquisition and disposition of right-of-way property:
 - a) acquisition methods; and,
 - b) disposition of excess property.
3. Construction project bidletting and control:
 - a) bid letting;
 - b) how contracts are controlled; and,
 - c) do in-state firms receive a preference on contracts.
4. Motor pool financing and operations:
 - a) fleet purchase or lease;
 - b) fleet financing; and,
 - c) maintenance programs.