

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON MASS
TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

October, 2009

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ALTERNATIVES
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Karen Firestone
Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted IC 2-5-28 establishing the Joint Study Committee on Mass Transit and Transportation Alternatives (Committee) and directing the Committee to do the following:

- (1) Review Indiana department of transportation studies regarding mass transit that have been conducted by the department.
- (2) Review federal legislative activity regarding development and expansion of mass transit as well as revenue streams on the federal level.
- (3) Review mass transit initiatives of other states.

The Legislative Council did not assign any topics to the Committee for the 2009 interim session.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met three times during the 2009 interim session on September 30, October 27, and October 28, 2009. The Committee is submitting this informational report instead of a final report. Meeting minutes for the Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

At the meeting on September 30, 2009, the Committee addressed the following topics:

- (1) Geoff Paddock, Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association, discussed passenger rail service in Fort Wayne.
- (2) Leigh Morris, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), discussed Indiana's participation in a multistate steering group whose purposes are to advance high speed rail development in the midwest and obtain necessary federal funding.
- (3) Roger Sims, Indiana High Speed Rail Association, discussed two rail projects for which INDOT is seeking federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- (4) The Committee received public testimony in support of high speed rail from John Swanson of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and Tim Maloney of the Hoosier Environmental Council.

At the meeting on October 27, 2009, the Committee addressed the following topics:

- (1) John Jordan and Kevin Rector, both of INDOT, spoke to the Committee about INDOT's office of aviation as well as the status of INDOT's applications for ARRA funds.
- (2) Jim Reed, National Conference of State Legislatures, spoke to the Committee about small airports and economic development.

(3) The Committee received public testimony from Mike Nichols, Frankfort Airport Authority board members, and Bart Giesler, Aviation Association of Indiana representative, concerning the funding difficulties faced by Indiana's small airports.

(4) State Representative Ryan Dvorak, South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke, Mark Dobson of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County, and Mike Schmuhl of the office of Congressman Joe Donnelly, spoke to the Committee about the high speed rail initiative in South Bend.

(5) David Holt of Conexus Indiana talked about logistics and transportation in Indiana.

(6) Paul Chase and Irene Wegner, AARP Indiana, spoke to the Committee in support of the Complete Streets Initiative.

At the meeting on October 28, 2009, the Committee addressed the following topics:

(1) Keith Bucklew, INDOT, spoke to the Committee about INDOT's multimodal freight and mobility study and plan.

(2) Steve Watson of CSX, Thomas Hoback of the Indiana Rail Road Company, Henry Lampe of the Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad, and John Secor of Louisville & Indiana Railroad, discussed the state of Indiana's freight rail transportation system.

(3) Kevin Brubaker of the Environmental Law and Policy Center briefed the Committee on the plan for rail service in the Midwest.

(4) Allan Hubbard updated the Committee on the Central Indiana Transit Task Force's forthcoming cost/benefit analysis.

(5) Laura Kliewer of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, spoke to the Committee about the federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act and rail investment opportunities afforded by ARRA.

The Committee made no findings or recommendations.