



QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE TRUCKING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

21 of May 2025 – C1 American Falls Conference Room/Teams

ATTENDEES

- Board Members
 - John Pocock, *Chairman*
 - Frank Buell, *District 1 (TEAMS)*
 - Tim Christopherson, *District 2 (Absent)*
 - Ben Espey, *District 3*
 - Kevin Iversen, *District 4*
 - David McNabb, *District 5*
 - Braxton Crapo, *District 6*
- Idaho Transportation Department Staff
 - Lisa McClellan, *DMV Administrator*
 - CJ Kendrick, *Deputy DMV Administrator*
 - Craig Roberts, *Commercial Vehicle Services Manager*
 - Scott Conrad, *Hearing Officers & CDL Skills Testers Supervisor*
 - Caleb Forrey, *Freight Program Manager*
 - Colby Cameron, *Governmental Affairs Manager*
 - Lorraine Dennis, *Executive to the ITD Board (TEAMS)*
 - Scott Luekenga, *Transportation Program Manager (TEAMS)*
 - Derek Peters, *D2 Port of Entry Supervisor (TEAMS)*
 - Al Arsenault, *D4 Port of Entry Supervisor (TEAMS)*
 - Chad Jackson, *D6 Port of Entry Supervisor (TEAMS)*
- Other Attendees
 - Allen Hodges, *ITA Executive Director (TEAMS)*
 - Kevin Kuther, *LHTAC*
 - Caleb Ross, *Idaho State Tax Commission (TEAMS)*

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Agenda Item 1 – Record Meeting Announcement

TAC Chairman

Agenda Item 2 –Call Meeting to order

8:35AM, Chairman Pocock called the meeting to order

Agenda Item 3 –Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves. Member Crapo is the new District 6 representative and Administrator McClellan welcomed him to the council. Member Crapo shared his background in farming, ranching, trucking, and his educational qualifications to the group.

Agenda Item 4– Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Member Christopherson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 19, 2025 and member McNabb seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all members.

Agenda Item 5 –Legislative Updates

Abandoned Vehicle Tow Portal launch Jan. 1, 2026

The Deputy Administrator shared progress on the Chapter 18 rewrite regarding abandoned vehicles, highlighting the development of a public tow company portal aimed at improving transparency, particularly around towing rates. Tow companies will be required to publish their rates on this portal. This initiative is recognized as a first step, with more improvements expected. Additionally, Allen Hodges from the Idaho Trucking Association will address towing issues with committees later this year.

Five New License Plates

The Deputy Administrator provided an update on five new license plates and their rollout timeline. All plates are for non-commercial vehicles, except the "Don't Tread on Me" plate, which—by statute—can be used on intrastate commercial vehicles over 26,000 lbs. However, it is not currently available due to system timing. It will become available with the launch of the new commercial registration system in spring 2026.

Temporary Weight Increases:

Manager Roberts explained that Idaho Code 49-432 addresses temporary weight increases and temporary registration. Previously, out-of-state, or non-IRP vehicles could obtain temporary registration upon entering Idaho at a Port of Entry or online. However, many companies bypassed this requirement. The new legislation now mandates that temporary registration must be obtained *before* entering the state.

ITD Budget and Legislative Session

The Governmental Affairs Manager gave an overview of ITD's budget and the recent legislative session. Key highlights included targeted pay raises for frontline and operational staff, and the continuation of the bonding program for large infrastructure projects. Allen Hodges was acknowledged as a valuable partner during the session. It was noted that 60 of 105 legislators are new within the last three years, requiring increased education on transportation issues. The "Leading Idaho" General Fund allocation was reduced from \$300 million to \$275 million, prompting adjustments to transportation improvement programs. Additionally, \$60 million from state sales tax on tech and logging will be bonded and distributed at \$20 million annually for three years starting FY 2026. This session also saw a record number of bills introduced—around 100 more than usual—largely driven by outside interests.

Agenda Item 6 –Commercial Updates and Off-Tracking District Activities

Employee Update

Manager Roberts announced the retirement of a program supervisor after 40 years of service, with a replacement set to start in the coming weeks. Roberts' role is shifting—some responsibilities will transition to a new Port of Entry Manager, while Roberts will focus on Commercial Registrations and Special Permits, particularly preparing for the new commercial registration system launching in spring 2026. This structure mirrors previous formats. Additionally, a new Incom Port employee is expected to start at the end of May.

Phone System Update

Port of Entry will be implementing the AWS phone system, which will improve customer service by allowing unanswered calls at the ports to roll over to ITD staff. This change will reduce phone tag and enhance efficiency in responding to inquiries

Registration Turnaround Time

The team is consistently achieving same-day turnaround on tasks, despite a three-day expectation. To better manage workloads year-round, they previously asked carriers to change their renewal months and found the distribution to be mostly balanced. A few carriers may still be contacted to smooth out remaining imbalances. Research showed most paperwork arrives at the end of each month, so new strategies are being tested: shortening the 60-day renewal notice period to reduce overlap between months and encouraging early submissions. Customers are reminded they can submit paperwork in advance and delay payment for up to 30 days.

Off-Tracking District Activities

Manager Forrey explained in district 5 is the primary district of hardship permits and they have to do with off track not necessarily with weight. Engineering managers have been working on this inhouse, using auto turn to look at the radius of the curves, road surface and the pinpoints of the off-track and looking at the details to enhance the off track making it greater. They have already increased most areas in district 5. ITD Director is involved and is in favor to help elevate off-track to help the industry. Idaho is the only state that uses an off-track formula. When we are redesigning a highway project, we need to consider the shoulder width and add off-track and then build accordingly.

Agenda Item 7 – Liability Insurance Requirements

The group discussed the need to address the current minimum liability insurance requirements, which are insufficient for covering the value of new vehicles. They agreed to involve the Department of Insurance in future discussions and the dealer advisory board that has expressed the same concerns, but ultimately there needs to be a statutory change.

Agenda Item 8 – CDL Executive Order

Supervisor Conrad provided an update on an executive order from President Trump that addresses English proficiency standards for commercial drivers and enhancements to CDL security. While English proficiency has long been a requirement under federal regulation (49 CFR §391.11), the enforcement approach has changed. FMCSA now mandates that any driver cited for lacking English proficiency must be placed immediately out of service. The evaluation involves a two-step process, and failure at the first step ends the assessment. Importantly, drivers with hearing impairments are not subject to this requirement, as American Sign Language is considered sufficient for meeting English language standards. Additional guidance from FMCSA is anticipated to clarify how proficiency will be measured and enforced. The second part of the executive order focuses on strengthening the security of commercial driver's licenses. In Idaho, for example, the CDL knowledge test is offered in four languages. The U.S. Secretary of

Transportation has been directed to review CDLs issued to non-domiciled individuals and assess whether current document verification protocols are effective, with the goal of improving the authenticity and security of these licenses.

Agenda Item 9 – Commercial Vehicle Updates

Manager Roberts shared that the new commercial vehicle registration system is being developed in-house and will significantly improve processing efficiency, especially during audits. A demonstration is expected at the next meeting in the fall. The new system will allow both counties and ITD staff—not just Ports of Entry—to assist with registrations. The Tax Commission has expressed interest in contributing input; initial meetings occurred but paused temporarily and will resume. For large fleets, the team is testing the use of temporary paper plates printed on durable, Department of Defense-grade paper—functionality not yet available in the current system.

Agenda Item 10– California Emission Rules

The group discussed a possible delay or rollback of California's 2026 CARB emissions standards for trucks, which could significantly impact the trucking industry. Engine manufacturers have already invested millions to comply with these stricter diesel regulations. A rollback—possibly under the Trump administration—could affect the cost of new trucks built to meet CARB standards. Concerns were also raised about electric trucks, which are about 9,000 lbs heavier, raising questions about their efficiency and the potential wear they place on roads.

Topic Discussion not on the original agenda 129 Applications:

After a three-year lull, Jerome Highway District has resumed submitting local jurisdiction requests. Milk haulers are now requesting 124, due to bridge configurations that better support this weight value over the 129-weight stretched out. The state is working to secure technical analysis funding to hire an engineer to evaluate route infrastructure. Since most state routes are already approved for 129, activity in these areas has been less visible. This situation illustrates a local jurisdiction seeking state-level support.

Agenda Item 11 – Select Dates for next TAC Meeting

Plan the next TAC meeting for Wednesday, September 24th and inform members to suggest agenda items to Heather.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjourn Meeting

11:45 am, Chairman Pocock adjourned the meeting.

Action items:

1. TAC members are encouraged to attend the upcoming legislative session when abandoned vehicle issues are being discussed and work together to draft a letter sharing their personal experiences with tow companies, expressing their support for the new tow bill. Members are also encouraged to individually contact their district legislators to communicate their firsthand experiences and advocate for the bill, with outreach likely beginning around the end or start of the new year.
2. Outreach will be made to the Department of Insurance, the Dealer Advisory Board, and the Trucking Advisory Council to organize a stakeholder engagement meeting focused on proposed legislative changes to raise the minimum liability insurance requirements; Kevin Iverson and Ben Espey showed interest to participate in this working group.

3. Supervisor Conrad will connect with federal partners to seek clarification on enforcement procedures related to English proficiency standards for non-U.S. drivers with Mexican or Canadian CDLs. Captain Bailey will be asked how ISP plans to enforce the executive order on English language requirements.

Minutes Certification

Certified by John Pocock, Chairman of the Council

Signature: _____ Date: _____