

SIGN TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 6TH, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Rick Metsger, Representative Read, Phil Schradle, Chris Zukin, Chris Colvin, Chris Daugherty, Kris Levesque, Rich Gaston, Terry Sandblast & Amy Joyce

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pete Frost, Kevin Howard & Dale Clark

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm

Minutes from Sept. 5th meeting approved

Senator Metsger requested that the agenda topic of Vegetation be held until next meeting. It was decided that “vegetation” was not an issue that needed to be address at the Task Force. It could be handled through direct communication between sign companies and the Sign Program. The issue of height restriction is covered in the LED topic.

Senator Metsger opened the floor to response regarding the LED pilot program;

Terry Sandblast raised the following issues:

1. Total number of permits should be increased from 5 to 20
2. Spacing should be adjusted to 500' between signs, questions the need to have 1000' in residential and 2000' outside residential
3. Height restrictions-would like the opportunity to review site and adjust height restrictions as needed
4. Concerned about the 10year time frame for program in regards to offsetting cost to construct.

Representative Read recalled that at the last Sign Task Force meeting Pete Frost had mentioned that there were existing LED signs structures and that these could possibly be used for the pilot program.

Terry Sandblast agreed that there were 5 LED signs in the Salem area. The State could use these for their studies and the chosen participants could use existing locations of current static billboards.

Senator Metsger asked for any other comments on the LED proposal.

None

Senator Metsger and Representative Read asked for comment regarding the objective to reduce signs on Scenic Byways by relocating to a new site as a LED sign in the pilot program.

It was noted that this could be one type of criteria used to choose participants in the pilot program.

Chris Zukin was concerned that if the LED pilot program was not made permanent he would lose his sign.

Representative Read asked if it would be possible to relocate the sign to a legal location.

Senator Metsger commented that this could be a viable solution, a possible plan B.

Terry Sandblast stated that allowing a sign in a Scenic Area/Byway to move more than the 100 miles would create more options.

Rich Gaston cautioned that the State has gone too far. A new class of permits with new values has been created. The system is overly complicated. He recommends using the prevailing standards, follow the feds. He also listed the following criteria for a LED sign

1. Digital allowed based on turn rate and illumination
2. Up to 8 advertisers on one structure
3. 8 permits per structure
4. Fee should be per permit

Senator Metsger asked for any public comment

None

Representative Read opened the topic of assessment by asking Amy Joyce to give an update on what's happening behind the scenes in the sign program.

Amy gave a list of "wish items" that the program needs.

1. New computer system for handle the data. The current one is quite antiquated and limits our ability to provide and process data.
2. Dedicated employee or contracted individual to conduct field work such as field checks for new permits, relocations, inventories and surveillance.
3. Dedicated vehicle and equipment to perform field work.

Chris Zukin stated that the Industry works with ODOT to create fees, 2001 was the last time they met and had a cost increase. He acknowledges that the program costs have increased over the last 7 years and the correct place to address fees for program cost is in a meeting between program staff and sign companies.

There was a general discussion on the cap and replace system and who established it.

Chris Daugherty gave a review of his proposal for dealing with relocation credits and Aesthetic Impact Mitigation Fee plan.

Rich Gaston stated that current relocation credits are assessed annually at a very reasonable fee. They do not generate income why are fees increasing? Standing and reconstruct fees should support the system. "Keep it simple"

He stated he finds Chris Daugherty proposal interesting, the value of the assets do down at some point.

He supports fees covering the cost of the program.

Chris Zukin mentioned that increased work covers the cost of the program.

Representative Read asked for a more detailed proposal to cover fees.

Terry Sandblast reviewed his proposal and agrees fees should cover the cost of the program. Also needs statutory regulations to address the issue of fines to cover legal cost.

Representative Read asked for public comment

A gentleman from the audience stated he was a builder. He stated that he applies for a permit it goes to a specific location. If he is unable to use this permit he does not get to use the same permit somewhere else.

Representative Read thanked him for his comment and went on to mention he was intrigued with the notion of being able to buy relocation miles using relocation credits.

Representative Read asked about what topics are to be in the Sign Task Force report due to Legislature. The topics are

1. Aggregation
2. LED
3. Penalties
4. Just Compensation
5. Desegmentation
6. Fees

Terry Sandblast asked what the report would look like cover to cover

Senator Metsger responded that the next meeting will go over topics we feel are important. What goes and what doesn't, then the legislature will decide what goes forward what can be taken care of.

Chris Daugherty asked if all members should create a list of topics.

Senator Metsger asked that each member create their list and forward to Amy Joyce.

Representative Read reminded the members to include details

Senator Metsger told the members an update is due to Legislature Oct. 28th, 2008

Representative Read said we need one more meeting to go over topics.

Representative Read asked for public comments:

Lyn Chiotti mentioned that the amount of miles used as criteria for relocating signs would allow a sign to be relocated boarder to boarder.

Senator Metsger asked if segmentation was state or federal law

Amy Joyce answered that it is both; we mirror our laws after the Feds.

Senator Metsger asked when the next meeting would be

Amy Joyce stated early November

Senator Metsger then asked when the report to the Legislature was due.

Amy Joyce answered November 1st.

Senator Metsger asked Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator for the interim Transportation Committee, who was in the audience if the reporting on the task force, was part of the Agenda for the Committee meeting on 10/28/08.

Patrick Brennan responded that it was not but he would put it there.

Senator Metsger confirmed the report will be done as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30