

MINUTES

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 29, 1994

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The November meeting of the Capital Projects Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by Chairperson Senator Emil Husak on November 29, 1994, at 11:05 a.m., in Committee Room 22, State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Husak were:

Senator John Jensen
Senator William Palmer
Representative Teresa Garman
Representative Pam Jochum
Representative Pat Murphy

Also present were staff members of the Legislative Service Bureau, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, members of caucus and research staffs, and other interested persons.

Upon motion of Representative Murphy, the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 15, 1994, were approved without dissent.

INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY - MR. DAVE HARMELINK, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Dave Harmelink, a coordinator of the project, introduced himself and distributed an update to the Committee on the Infrastructure Study Project being conducted by himself and Professor James Rowings of Iowa State University. The update is on file with the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Harmelink reported that surveys were sent to all 390 public school districts in the state in September. He indicated that about 225 completed surveys have been received. Mr. Harmelink stated that there has been some resistance from district superintendents in completing the forms but he noted that most of the information requested is also required to be reported to the Department of Education. Senator Jensen indicated that he had heard reports that 50 percent of schools do not meet fire codes and he wondered if this information was requested by the surveys. Mr. Harmelink indicated that one survey question asks about building and fire code violations but is not specific as to the type of violation.

Mr. Harmelink stated that surveys have been sent to all 148 Iowa cities with populations of 2,000 and over and to all counties. He noted that the surveys seek information to create an inventory of existing facilities, to acquire information about the value of the cities' and counties' facilities, and to acquire capital improvement plans or similar information. Senator Palmer stated that the survey could examine maintenance and repair costs over time in order to anticipate future costs. Senator Palmer asked whether the survey seeks information on asbestos removal and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Mr. Harmelink indicated that the survey does request information about asbestos removal and that he believed the request for a city's or county's capital improvements plan should provide information about ADA compliance.

Senator Husak expressed his interest in finding out how public buildings are used. He further commented that the hope is that the study will be completed by January 1, 1995. Mr. Harmelink indicated that this is the goal of the study coordinators as well and asked the Committee whether they had any ideas on how to encourage cities and counties to promptly return the forms. Senator Palmer noted that he understood how cities and counties may become frustrated by the forms since they might feel that the results of the study could be used by the Legislature, or others, in a negative way.

MOTION FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Senator Palmer moved that Chairperson Husak work with Mr. Thane Johnson, Legislative Service Bureau, to prepare a letter from the Committee to encourage cities and counties to fill out and return the forms. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Harmelink also noted that information has been received from the Board of Regents, the Department of General Services, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation as well. He indicated that he would be willing to make an update on the progress of the study in January.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ED COOK
Legal Counsel