



Highway Policy Committee

CHAIRMAN: Adam Blanchard, Shareholder and Managing Member, Double Diamond Transport, Inc.

TCA STAFF LIAISON: David Heller, Caitlin Smith

MINUTES:

MEETING DATE: Sunday, March 5, 2023
TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. EST
PLACE: Gaylord Palms Orlando

MEMBERS PRESENT

Atwater, Jordan	Edmondson, Amber	Newell, Dean
Beacom, Joe	Freeman, David	Penner, Rob
Blanchard, Adam	Frolick, Mike	Smerchek, Karen
Burch, Kevin	Hodges, Tommy G.	Spangenberg, Glynn
Chrulski, Tim	Hopkins, Darrel	Stockeland, Jim
Culp, John	Kretsinger, Bob	Swedberg, Konor
Dellinger, Dennis	Kurtz, Trevor	Votroubek, Lance
Dittmer, Brenda	Manthey, Scott	Williams, Dave
Durocher, Andre	Nagle, Ed	Wingerter, Nicholas

GUESTS PRESENT

Altanova, Tamira	Douglass, Jason	Mewhinney, Heather
Amhof, Randy	Drapeau, Brent	Morin, Graig
Amhof, Roger	Ebosh, Henry	Nadeau, Kevin
Anderson, Al	Elliott, John	Nesbitt, Jason
Atkins, Jack	Ercanbrack, Luke	Nixon, Kevin
Bernstein, Soona	Gillette, Patti	Ochy, Daniel
Bramlage, Kyle	Glasgow, Mark	Pantuso, Janet
Bush, George	Glasgow, Mike	Patwardhan, Manohar
Canevello, Mike	Gulker, Chris	Pearson, Amanda
Cangemi, Richard	Haight, Ray	Peckham, Bob
Castro, Armando	Hall, Brian	Pitzel, Garth
Chiappetta, Daniel	Hardy, Clint	Potthoff, Jeff
Chitwood, Tim	Hedstrom, Mike	Pottle, Barry
Christenson, Don	Hogan, Joey	Prevost, Bill
Coast, Darren	Humphries, Kyle	Randall, Scott
Cordova, Ron	Jenkins, Peter	Reeves, Jeff
Cravens, George	Koppen, Andrew	Renfrew, David
Davenport, Jay	Krause, Josh	Resta, Ken
Davis, Jeffrey	Luxton, Lucas	Runners, Brian
Deck, Wiley	Mallory, John	Russell, Jon
Dema, Jeff	Martin, Trevor	Sabler, Ken
Dittmer, Barry	Maschmeier, Jill	Sewell, Jay

Seymour, Mark
Shah, Ronak
Singleton, Derick
Smith, Jana
Smith, Joe
Spalla, Mike
St. Paul, Rick
Surber, Marilyn

Surber, Marilyn
Tompkins, Eric
Topping, Geoff
Torres, Somer
Trawick, Jakira
Van Alstine, Dan
Villanueva, Elias
Vise, Avery

Vose, Brandon
Walker, Mark
Walker, Ty
Whitson, Jared
Wnuk, Mark
Woodring, Stephen
Zane, Jon

TCA STAFF

David Heller
Caitlin Smith
Jim Ward
Eddie Wayland

I. Call to Order

Chairman Adam Blanchard called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. EST. Due to the high attendance, Blanchard forwent the verbal roll call and asked committee members and guests to record their names on the sign in sheet. Then, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to conduct the meeting according to the antitrust guidelines. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 12, 2022.

Blanchard reminded attendees that the event dates for the Fall Business Meetings have changed to September 25-26, 2024, in Washington, DC to avoid interfering with National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

II. Midterm Election Outlook – Missy Edwards, MME Strategies

TCA lobbyists Missy Edwards and Richard Sullivan provided an overview of expectations for the 118th Congressional Session, including a breakdown of Congress post-midterms. The pair briefed the committee on legislative priorities for each political party, including areas where compromise could possibly be struck. Edwards and Sullivan specifically addressed key issue areas related to infrastructure, transportation, and labor. Lastly, they discussed upcoming elections in the Senate and detailed important races to watch.

III. Discussion of Federal Excise Tax – Brenda Dittmer, Weinrich Truck Line, Inc.

Last committee meeting, the Chairman established a subcommittee to review and put forth a formal policy for the association regarding the repeal of the federal excise tax. Committee member, Brenda Dittmer, was tapped to chair the subcommittee, which met several times. Dittmer listed and thanked the subcommittee participants and then read aloud the proposed policy:

“TCA supports the repeal of the 12% federal excise tax (FET) on trucking equipment, on condition that the revenue it generates for the highway trust fund is replaced by either general revenue transfers or an appropriate increase in federal fuel tax, or a combination of both. Fuel taxes for consideration should include diesel, electric, hydrogen, or other emerging types of fuel.

The FET is an antiquated and discriminatory tax, initially adopted over 100 years ago to help pay for World War I, wherein it first applied to all vehicles but today is only imposed on heavy-duty trucks. Since its initial implementation, the tax burden has steadily risen and now increases the cost of new heavy-duty trucks and trailers by \$22,000 on average. By driving up the cost of equipment, the tax hinders fleet investment and delays the purchase of safer and more fuel-efficient trucks.”

Chairman Blanchard then asked the committee to consider the policy. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the language and present it to TCA’s Board of Directors.

IV. Briefing on EPA Low NOx Rule – Caitlin Smith, Manager of Government Affairs, TCA

TCA’s Caitlin Smith briefed the committee on the EPA’s new emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks. Smith discussed the larger trends in the administration’s trucking-related environmental regulations and industry reaction to the strategy. She also addressed TCA’s concerns regarding the low NOx rule and reviewed how the association presented its position in comments filed to the agency, as well as in discussions with policymakers on Capitol Hill.

V. SHIP IT Act - David Heller, Senior VP of Safety and Government Affairs, TCA

TCA’s Dave Heller gave an overview of the SHIP IT Act, a supply chain bill that provides investment for truck parking, tax credits for drivers, weight exemptions, and more. Heller presented the details of the legislation and discussed TCA’s position on each portion, most notably on the issue of truck weight.

VI. Old/New Business

Chairman Blanchard brought to the committee’s attention a Texas-based pilot program on vehicle-miles-traveled tax that is gaining traction within the state’s transportation agency.

There was no old business to discuss. Chairman Blanchard requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m. EST

VII. Adjournment