

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 10, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 536 - Recreational off-highway vehicles, regulation thereof**. Senator Apple moved, Senator Marshall seconded, to table **SB 536**. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for final action on **HB 2482 - Expiration and renewal of drivers' licenses, requirements**. He indicated his intent to amend contents of **HB 2484 - Commercial driver's licenses, prohibiting diversion agreements** and **SB 484 - Driver's licenses; restrictions and conditions** into the bill. Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, distributed the balloon amendment and reviewed the changes including technical changes to **HB 2482** (Attachment 1).

Senator Kultala moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to amend **HB 2482** as reflected in the balloon amendment. Motion carried.

Senator Kultala moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to recommend **HB 2482**, as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for final action on **HB 2485 - Increasing time period for audit of certain motor carriers**. Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Senator Apple moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to recommend **HB 2485** favorably for passage and be placed on the consent calendar. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the combined hearings on **SB 498 - Transportation works for Kansas program, financing** and **SB 515 - Transportation works for Kansas, financing, sales tax on motor-vehicle fuels**.

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided an outline of the Transportation Works for Kansas bills, **SB 498** and **SB 515** (Attachment 2). She explained that the outline is broken down into basic subject-matter sections and the most prominent of those sections are:

- Legislative intent
- Registration and permit fees
- Transportation Revolving Fund loans
- Bonding
- Fuel taxes

Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed both bills, noting they were basically the same except for some variations in the funding mechanisms. He recommended removing subsection (i), since both bills provide funding for the transportation program.

Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), began with an outline of the agency's informational testimony. She indicated she would report the agency's current fiscal status and programs,

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review legislation and policy, and present a T-WORKS program summary. Joe Erskine, Deputy Secretary of Finance, KDOT, would conclude with a summary of T-WORKS funding (Attachment 3).

Secretary Miller continued with an update on fiscal status of KDOT. She stated that the Governor's recent announcement of a \$28 million reduction to the State Highway Fund, and with previous revenue losses, brings the total fund loss for fiscal year 2010 to \$257 million. She indicated the construction industry has suffered the brunt of the losses. KDOT had planned 1,600 miles of preservation work for this year and now they are looking at 700 miles - less than half of what was originally planned. In three years, the 2009, 2010, and 2011 budgets, KDOT has lost \$504 million in reductions and revenue losses.

Concerns were discussed relating to the State Highway Fund being raided to cover shortfalls in the State's General Fund. Senator Apple requested from KDOT, the total amount that has been borrowed from the fund and not paid back. Questions were raised that if the State is not repaying the monies borrowed from the fund, would it affect future bond ratings.

The Chairman announced that Secretary Miller would continue her informational testimony tomorrow at the regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2010.