

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 7, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Pugh

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Tom Whitaker, Exec. Dir., KS Motor Carriers Assn.
Dean Ford, Vice-Pres. ACS Operations

Others attending: See attached list

PrePass Demonstration, Kansas Motor Carriers Assn.

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association and all members present were celebrating their "snow day" at the Capitol - the last time they were scheduled everything was closed down because of the weather. Mr. Whitaker introduced the Association's "Truck Driver of the Year; Jeff Davis, a Wal-Mart driver from Ottawa, and the Road Team Members. These are the people who go out and speak to private training schools, high schools, etc. He also touched on the trucking industry's involvement in "Highway Watch," a joint program with the Highway Patrol, designed to improve highway safety.

The Association arranged for a presentation to the Committee regarding an exciting new program which has no State money invested in it. It is all private enterprise. Called "PrePass," It allows trucks to move more efficiently and is now in place in Kansas. Mr. Whitaker introduced Dean Ford, Vice-President, Commercial Vehicle Operations, ACS Corporation. This Corporation actually owns and operates the PrePass System. Members viewed a video demonstration of how the System operates.

Lockheed-Martin developed this system and then sold it to Dallas based ACS Corporation. Only motor carriers with a proven safety record qualify to participate in PrePass and participation is voluntary. The PrePass technology enables qualified motor carriers, while traveling at highway speed, electronically to comply with Kansas safety and credential requirements. As qualified trucks approach a PrePass-equipped inspection facility, an in-cab transponder identifies the vehicle to a computer which verifies compliance with state requirements, including weight and credentials. Vehicles in compliance receive a green light on the in-cab transponder and they can bypass the inspection. If they receive a red light they must pull in for inspection. Members traveling west on I-70 may have seen the visible part of this system at the Wabaunsee County Inspection Station. All systems have been installed and will be maintained at absolutely no cost to the State of Kansas. By this time 25 states have entered the system and each time a participating motor carrier bypasses an inspection they pay a nominal fee to ACS Corporation.. This system requires an enormous data base which must be constantly updated. The System's advantages are tremendous for qualifying carriers (attachment 1). In states where the system is operating, they have noted an increase in compliance with safety, weight, insurance, tax requirements so that carriers can qualify for PrePass. Systems in Kansas that are now operational are located at South Haven, north bound; Turnpike, north and south bound; I-35 Olathe, east and west bound; Wabaunsee, east and west bound; and Kanorado.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2002.