

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:37 a.m. on January 21, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Pat Apple- excused

Committee staff present:
Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
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.

Bill Introductions

Senator Huntington requested the introduction of a bill on behalf of County Treasurers, relating to additional locations for vehicle registrations. Senator Huntington moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to introduce the bill. Motion carried.

The Chairman called attention to the conclusions and recommendations, for a new Comprehensive Transportation Plan, from the Special Committee on Transportation (Attachment 1).

Presentation on "Status of Transportation in Kansas"

Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) gave an overview on current status of the department, and information on the previous twenty years of transportation during the 1989 Comprehensive Highway Plan (CHP) and 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP). She stated "Kansas has 10,000 miles of state highways, the third most road miles in the nation, and our transportation system is what moves the Kansas economy."

Secretary Miller noted that KDOT has 3,100 employees, of which 2,200 are employed in six districts for road maintenance and construction inspection. The remaining 900 are at headquarters for planning and local projects, road and bridge design, aviation/rail/transit services, signs and speed limits. She also noted that the department had 4,700 employees in 1971.

She continued with reviewing State Highway Fund (SHF) sources and expenditures, how previous plans were funded, economic impact, current budget cuts to the SHF resulting in a 28% loss to agency revenues in 2010, Federal update, and the CHP and CTP programs and projects (Attachment 2). KDOT also provided CTP 2000-2009 total transportation spending maps (Attachment 3).

Questions and discussion followed. Chairman Umbarger requested a comparison of investments made in preservation and new construction 20 years ago to the present, showing the effect of the recent reductions in KDOT's budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2010.