

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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:

Janis Pauls, Representative, State of Kansas  
Matt Neal, Citizen of Reno County, son of the late John Neal  
Dave Kerr, Executive Director, Reno County Chamber of Commerce  
Richard Shank, Citizen of Reno County  
Sharon Schwartz, Representative, State of Kansas  
Patrick Breeding, brother of the late Michael Hugh Breeding

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2535 - Designating part of K-61 highway as the John Neal memorial highway.**

Janis Pauls, Representative, State of Kansas, presented testimony supporting **HB 2535**. She indicated that in September 2005 Hutchinson lost a great civic leader and visionary who was a major voice for improved highway corridors to that city. One of John Neal's major passions was the improvement of the highway access to Hutchinson and worked for many years for safe four-lane improvements to highways 96 and 61. Representative Pauls concluded that those of us in Hutchinson are quite aware of the role John played in promoting these road improvements and it would be a fitting memorial to his efforts to name this section of Highway 61 in his honor (Attachment 1).

Matt Neal, Citizen of Reno County, son of the late John Neal, spoke of the love his father had for Hutchinson, and his vision of the city's need for viable, safe, four-lane highways to attract businesses to the city. Passage of **HB 2535** would be an honor to him and to his family.

Dave Kerr, Executive Director, Reno County Chamber of Commerce testified in favor of **HB 2535**, stating that he believes it is important to provide recognition for people who make exceptional efforts to improve their community. John Neal's efforts spanned decades, spending enormous amounts of time in Topeka and around the State in 1988 and 1989, to encourage passage of a ten-year transportation plan. When the bill passed, it included system enhancements on K-96 between Hutchinson and Wichita. Ten years later, passage of the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Plan eventually resulted in the major improvements to K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson, currently under construction. He concluded that if it wasn't for the enlightened work of John Neal, Hutchinson might still be struggling with minimal highway access instead of enjoying the prospect of becoming a community attractive to international manufacturers (Attachment 2).

Richard Shank, Citizen of Reno County appeared as a proponent of **HB 2535** indicating that John Neal was Hutchinson's Mr. Highway, but there was more to him than just roads. He grew up in Hutchinson and was a respected businessman and family man. His name is engraved on every major civic improvement project in the city from the 1970s until his death in 2005 (Attachment 3).

There being no further conferees the hearing on **HB 2535** was closed.

The Chairman seeing no opposition called for action on the bill. **Senator Donovan moved, Senator Petersen seconded, to recommend HB 2535 favorably for passage. Motion carried.**

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger opened the hearing on **HB 2436 - Michael Hugh Breeding memorial bridge**.

Sharon Schwartz, Representative, State of Kansas provided testimony in support of **HB 2436**, which will designate bridge No. 62 on US Highway 77 in Marshall County as the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding memorial bridge. She stated that naming the bridge in his honor would give recognition to a man who grew up in this community, served in the armed forces, fought in the Vietnam War and ultimately received the Purple Heart. The cost for the signs will be raised locally, with no cost to the State (Attachment 4).

Patrick Breeding, brother of the late Michael Hugh Breeding appeared as a proponent of **HB 2436**. He stated that his brother graduated from the University of Kansas in 1967, completing Officer Candidate School training with the United States Marine Corps between his junior and senior year. Forty years ago he was piloting an F4B attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 and failed to return from the mission. Mr. Breeding continued that his brother was declared killed in action a month later, two days short of his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. In addition to naming the bridge after Michael, the Kansas Department of Transportation has agreed to add the following to the sign: DEDICATED TO HONOR ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM (Attachment 5).

There being no further conferees the hearing on **HB 2436** was closed.

The Chairman called for action on **HB 2436**. Senator Kultala moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to recommend **HB 2436** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2010.