

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Wednesday, February 03, 2016, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused  
Senator Jacob LaTurner – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department  
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department  
Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Carolyn Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Beason, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau  
Danny Williams, Commissioner, Chautauqua County  
Travis Nordell, EMT  
Sheriff Richard Newby, Chautauqua County

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

There were no bill introductions.

### **Update on:**

Chairman Petersen introduced Jim Beason, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau. Mr. Beason thanked the Committee for the opportunity to appear and reminded the members that the purpose of the presentation was to encourage support for the repair of K-99 in Chautauqua and Elk Counties between Sedan and Howard. Mr. Beason presented a slide show containing graphic pictures of the dangerous drop-off conditions which exist on K-99, showing some instances where the guard rail is only slightly above or even with the road surface. Hwy. 99 is not on the 10-year plan so they do not foresee any real improvements until after 2019. The highway serves two county seats, Sedan and Howard, and is a bus route for both communities. It is also a major truck route for the movement of cattle, feed, grain and hay and for oversize loads. Due to the fact there are no shoulders, it is extremely dangerous for law enforcement to either enforce traffic regulations or assist motorists and also dangerous for emergency vehicles. When similar roadways have 10 accidents, K-99 has 16.7. He also noted Quivira Scout Ranch, visited by 10,000 a year, is accessed from the route and that Chautauqua County and Lane County have received the least under the Transportation Works for Kansas (T-Works) program ([Attachment 1](#)) .

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Transportation at 8:30 am on Wednesday, February 03, 2016 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

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Sheriff Richard Newby, Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department, respectfully requested assistance for a solution which would decrease the burden placed on the citizens of Chautauqua County and his department's limited resources ([Attachment 2](#)). He also described some crashes he has worked on the portion of highway in question.

Danny Williams, Chairman of the Chautauqua County Commission, noted that he and the rest of the Commission are fully supportive of all efforts to find a solution to this matter. He pointed out that in his 12 years on the Commission, this has always been a priority item when speaking with the Kansas Department of Transportation ([Attachment 3](#)).

Travis Nordell, a paramedic for 15 years in Chautauqua County, stated that fortunately due to air bags, seat belts, and high vehicle standards, fatalities are few on a stretch of highway that sees more than its fair share of roll-over accidents caused by tire-drop-offs. He also reminded the Committee of the property damage which would occur as a result of the roll-overs. He stated that most people do not pull over for emergency vehicles due to the condition of the road, leading to ambulance delay in getting a patient to a hospital.

Written testimony in support was presented by the Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board of Directors ([Attachment 4](#)), Chautauqua County Community USD #286 ([Attachment 5](#)), Steve Stanfield, Consolidated OWS Management, Inc. ([Attachment 6](#)), Alan Lepard, Boy Scouts of America ([Attachment 7](#)), and Joe Fortmeyer, DRISCO ([Attachment 8](#)).

Senator Petersen asked if the County had any input on the placement of the power lines along the highway and was told by Commissioner Williams that there were no public meetings concerning this issue.

Senator Donovan reminded the Committee that traffic along Hwy. 99 also included student traffic from Wichita to Coffeyville Community College.

Several Committee members wondered if removal of the top layers of overlay would alleviate the problem. Mr. Beason replied that would be a welcome solution and also said that addition of an 18" shoulder would make a large difference.

Chairman Petersen thanked Mr. Beason and the others in attendance for their presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016.