

LEGISLATIVE  
M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

Joint Meeting with Senate and House Transportation Committees

December 16, 1975  
Room 519-S, State House

Interim Committee Members Present

Senator Bob Storey, Chairman  
Representative Fred Harris, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Paul Burke  
Senator John Crofoot  
Senator T.D. Saar  
Representative Arden Dierdorff  
Representative Paul Feleciano  
Representative Ardena Matlack  
Representative Dave Miller  
Representative Robert McCrum  
Representative Ole Nesmith  
Representative Fred Weaver

Senate and House Transportation Committee  
Members Present

Senator George D. Bell  
Senator John Vermillion  
Senator R.J. Williams  
Representative Geneva Anderson  
Representative Lloyd Buzzi  
Representative Ambrose Dempsey  
Representative Lee Hamm  
Representative Ron Hein  
Representative Sharon Hess  
Representative Ted Lindahl  
Representative Marvin Littlejohn  
Representative Ken Marshall  
Representative J.H. Reeves  
Representative Ben Sellers  
Representative Ted Templar  
Representative James Yonally

Staff Present

John Schott Legislative Research Department  
Alan Alderson, Revisor of Statutes' Office

Conferees

O.D. Turner, Kansas Department of Transportation  
W.H. Ogan, Kansas Department of Transportation  
John McNeal, Kansas Department of Transportation

Morning Session

Senator Crofoot called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on December 16, 1975, in Room 519-S, State House. He introduced Mr. O.D. Turner, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

An extensive booklet was distributed to each member present. (A copy is available for review in the LRD.) It was prepared as part of an effort by the Department of Transportation to acquaint the legislature, the executive branch and the public with the general state of Kansas' transportation system. Particular emphasis is upon the 10,000 mile state highway system and the various factors and conditions now affecting development and operation of the state's transportation system. Needs and requirements to achieve and maintain an adequate and consistent level of transportation service are also discussed.

Mr. Turner presented an explanation of the booklet. His remarks are in the forward and the portion of the booklet entitled "The Revenues/Capital Investment Problem".

He explained that the Wilbur Smith study authorized last session was not ready but should be in on the 20th of December and would be presented to the Committee at a later time.

The presentation for the day was made through the use of visual materials, copies of which are also in the booklet.

Under Part 1, Figure I-1, Mr. Turner pointed out the sharp rise in the U.S. construction bid price index between 1967 and 1980, noting that it has doubled through 1974 and is projected to triple by 1980.

As to the cost trends relative to highway and maintenance operations, construction activities with energy related materials have been hardest hit. Mr. Turner explained that this is a national trend, and Kansas is close to the national trend. However, labor costs in Kansas have not risen as much as the national trend.

In discussing specific highway matters, Mr. Turner noted that the Interstate highway system in Kansas is essentially completed, with only 31 miles remaining to be constructed. Cost projections indicate that those 31 miles will cost as much as the portion already completed.

Secretary Turner pointed out that many of Kansas' highway needs are in the 8,000 mile non-freeway highway system.

Figures I-6 show highway construction contracts by funding class and actual dollars spent. Since 1971, 65% of the amount of money spent on construction contracts were on highways in the freeway system.

Mr. Turner was asked if he had made any determination as to whether Kansas can afford a 10,000 mile highway system. He replied that he was not ready to provide a mathematically defensible recommendation now. He pointed out to the Committee that Kansas has the third largest highway system in the nation.

Mr. Turner was asked if he knows of any federal changes in the requirements for matching funds. Mr. Turner replied that a number of states are unable to take full advantage of matching funds, and predicted that within the next two to three years the federal law will change, including the definitions of maintenance and construction.

Mr. Turner then gave the floor to Mr. Ogan for an explanation of the various funding categories. His explanation of "Categorical Funding" appears in section two of the booklet.

#### Afternoon Session

Senator Storey resumed the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Turner introduced Mr. McNeal, who presented "Status of Freeway Program", section three in the booklet.

Mr. Turner presented part four, "Some Basic Policy Considerations." He explained that these are not firm recommendations but are tabulations of things that have to be considered for balanced road construction and maintenance program.

Following several brief questions, Senator Storey thanked the members of KDOT for their presentation and suggested that the balance of the presentation - results of the Wilbur Smith study - could be given after the legislature convenes in January.

Senator Crofoot made a motion, seconded by Representative McCrum, that the minutes of October 30 and 31 and November 18 be approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Prepared by John Schott

Approved by Committee on:

1-23-76

Date