

Approved September 19, 1988
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation

The meeting was called to order by Rex Crowell at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 15, 1988 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Laird, Spaniol, Gross, Dillon
and Smith

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research
Donna Mulligan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Dale Sprague
Mr. Kenneth Sjorgren, Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Peter Ristuben, Bethany College
Mr. Don Anderson, Lindsborg City Council
Mr. Ed DeSoignie, Kansas Department of Transportation
Mr. John Smith, Kansas Department of Revenue

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Crowell, and the first order of business was a hearing on HB-2803, providing for the erection of certain signs at the intersection of I-70 and I-35.

Chairman Crowell said Representative Kathryn Sughrue requested an amendment to HB-2803 providing for a sign at the turn-off on I-70 and Highway 156 going toward Ellsworth which would read "Boothill Museum Old Dodge City". (See Attachment 1)

Representative Dale Sprague, sponsor of the bill, briefed the Committee on HB-2803, and outlined important points. (See Attachment 2)

Mr. Kenneth Sjorgren, Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of HB-2803. (See Attachment 3)

He said Lindsborg has become one of the leading tourist attractions in Kansas and is rapidly gaining visibility nationally for its heritage and art. He said many out-of-state visitors complain that the official I-135 exit signs say nothing about Lindsborg being a southbound destination on I-135.

Mr. Peter Ristuben, Bethany College, Lidsborg, Kansas, testified in favor of HB-2803. (See Attachment 4)

He said members of the staff of Bethany College have received numerous comments and complaints by visitors to the campus and community about the absence of signs on the east-west I-70 route pointing to Lindsborg's location.

Mr. Don Anderson, Lindsborg City Council, testified in support of HB-2803. (See Attachment 5)

Mr. Anderson said national and international travelers on I-70 who are seeking Lindsborg, find no official signage indicating when or where to turn to Lindsborg. He said many times tourists travel as far as Hays before realizing they missed the turn-off to Lindsborg.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation,
room 519-S Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xx~~ p.m. on February 15, 19 88

Mr. Anderson read a letter from Mr. John C. Magnuson, McPherson County Commission Chairman, voicing support for HB-2803. (See Attachment 6)

Mr. Ed DeSoignie, Kansas Department of Transportation, testified in opposition to HB-2803. (See Attachment 7)

Mr. DeSoignie stated that HB-2803 is in conflict with Section 2F-23 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Transportation Department. He said Section 2F-23 states "The sign messages (at interchanges between freeways) should contain only the route shield, cardinal direction and the name of the next control city on that route. He further stated that Lindsborg is neither the next control city on the route nor is it on the route.

Discussion ensued concerning what constitutes a control city. Representative Sprague referred to a letter he received from Mr. Avila, Legislative Research Department, setting out guidelines constituting a control city. Representative Sprague indicated he felt the guidelines were sufficiently broad to permit KDOT to provide the requested signing for Lindsborg.

Chairman Crowell requested that Mr. DeSoignie determine what is the attitude of KDOT in terms of being as flexible as the current statute will permit, and report back to the Committee.

The hearing on HB-2803 ended.

The next business was a hearing on HB-2769 concerning duplicate or substitute drivers' licenses.

Hank Avila briefed the Committee on the contents of the bill.

Mr. John Smith, Department of revenue, Division of Vehicles, testified in support of HB-2769. He recommended permitting an identification card bearing a person's photograph and date of birth to be used for identification purposes when applying for a duplicate driver's license.

The hearing on HB-2769 ended.

Representative Russell requested that the Committee introduce legislation prohibiting elevated vehicles.

A motion was made by Representative Shore that legislation be introduced prohibiting a vehicle from being elevated more than 36 inches from the ground. The motion was seconded by Representative Moomaw. Motion passed.

Representative Russell requested that the Committee introduce legislation prohibiting trains from blocking road crossings.

A motion was made by Representative Russell that legislation be introduced prohibiting trains from blocking road crossings, and raising the penalty for blocking crossings to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Representative Empson. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.


Rex Crowell, Chairman

STATE OF KANSAS

KATHRYN SUGHRUE
REPRESENTATIVE, 116TH DISTRICT
FORD COUNTY
1809 LA MESA DRIVE
DODGE CITY, KANSAS 67801



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
MEMBER: MIDWESTERN CONFERENCE ON
HEALTH—COMMISSIONER ON
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

February 15, 1988

RE: Request for an Amendment to H.B. 2803 by Dale Sprague
BY: Kathryn Sughrue *K.S.*

A sign is requested at the turn-off on I-70 and
156 going toward Ellsworth.

Sign:

(Boothill Museum
Old Dodge City)

Att. 1



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

A-2

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRMAN: INSURANCE
MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

DALE M. SPRAGUE
REPRESENTATIVE, SEVENTY-THIRD DISTRICT
MCPHERSON COUNTY
P.O. BOX 119
MCPHERSON, KANSAS 67460
(316) 241-7112

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 112-S
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(913) 296-7682

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 15, 1988

HB 2803

LINDSBORG SIGN AT I-70/I-135 JUNCTION

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my remarks are brief, and I outline below their important points.

1. Promotion and improvement of Tourism is a primary objective of the Department of Commerce and the Kansas Commission on Travel & Tourism. Harland Priddle letter, Sept. 17, 1987.
2. Lindsborg is a prime tourist stop with national reputation and scope of interest.
3. Appeals have been made to the Kansas Department of Transportation for several years to place signage at the intersection of I-70 & I-135 for Lindsborg. No action was taken.
4. Considerable private money spent on billboards to announce and advertise Lindsborg.
5. Federal policy does not prohibit the requested signage.
6. Inconsistency between Kansas Turnpike Authority & KDOT signage policies.
 - a. Jayhawks at Lawrence.
 - b. "Linger Longer" banners
7. Other states usage of signage to promote tourism and announce named services only now under experiment in Kansas.
8. Basic restrictive policy interpretations of KDOT must be changed.

Respectfully

Dale M. Sprague
State Representative
District Seventy Three



Chamber of Commerce

Post Office Box 191
Lindsborg, Kansas 67456-0191
Telephone 913-227-3706

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 2803
Presented to the House Transportation Committee
February 15, 1988

Lindsborg, Kansas has become one of the leading tourist attractions in Kansas and is rapidly gaining visibility nationally for its heritage and art. Highway signage has become a very valuable asset to our community; travelers who stop in response to it represent a large percentage of our business revenue.

For nearly two years, the Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce - in cooperation with a number of businesses, organizations and individuals - has pledged \$9550 per year to maintain highway sign leases on Interstate 70 and Interstate 135. Two-thirds of this cost is directed toward billboards on I-70 which draw attention to the need to exit on I-135 south to get to Lindsborg.

Yet many of our businesses tell of out-of-state visitors who complain that the official I-135 exit signs say nothing about Lindsborg being a south bound destination on I-135. These, of course, are travelers who have turned around after discovering they missed the turn to Lindsborg. Undoubtedly, there are many more who go on down I-70 and never turn back.

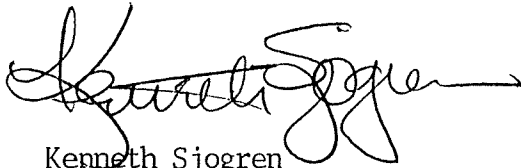
The Travel and Tourism Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce is putting much emphasis on getting travelers to stop to visit our attractions as they pass through the state. Our concern is that visitors will not "linger longer" if they cannot find their destination.

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Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce statement in support of HB 2803

With this brief background, the Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that you support HB 2803 adding Lindsborg to the exit signs at the I-135 turn off for both east bound and west bound traffic.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Sjogren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth Sjogren
Chair of the Tourism Division
Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce



Bethany College

Office of the President

A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2803-LINDSBORG HIGHWAY SIGNAGE

Bethany College fully endorses and supports House Bill 2803, which provides for signs offering directions to Lindsborg to travelers going east or west on Interstate Highway 70. The members of the staff of Bethany College have received numerous comments and complaints by visitors to the campus and community about the absence of signs on the east-west Interstate 70 route pointing to Lindsborg's location. House Bill 2803 is important to Bethany College and the Lindsborg community because it will assist the many thousands of people each year who travel to the campus for a variety of reasons.

As an educational institution offering an academic program widely recognized for its high quality, Bethany attracts a student body comprised of students from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and other more distant states. Many of these students and their parents have commented upon the difficulty of making the proper turn south when traveling to Lindsborg from east or west.

Bethany College is proud of the reputation of both college and community as a center for the fine and performing arts. The 107 year old Messiah Festival draws several thousand people from

across the country each Holy Week to attend performances of Handel's "Messiah" and Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" as well as other cultural activities in the Lindsborg community that week. These performances have been broadcast live nation-wide on two different occasions by public television stations and the Bethany College Oratorio Society and its director, Dr. Elmer Copley, were the first recipients of the Governor's Art Awards in the performing arts in February 1988.

It would assist the many visitors to the community greatly if the route to Lindsborg could be properly marked.

In 1981, Bethany College instituted the Second Century Performing Artist Series, which annually brings major performing artists each year to the campus. Artists performing in this series include Samuel Ramey, Pinchas Zuckerman, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Beaux Arts Trio. These events attract audiences from throughout the state, with people traveling from as far west as Colby and as far east as Kansas City to Lindsborg for these performances.

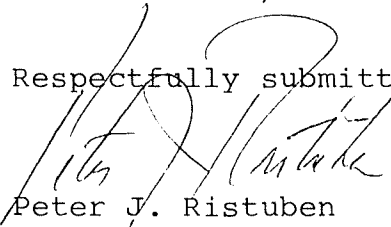
During the summer months, Bethany serves as a site for many conferences, workshops, and other activities. These events bring over 8,000 people each June, July and August to the Lindsborg community for such events as church conventions, athletic camps,

and educational workshops. Many of these events draw people from across the nation. For example, in August 1987 Bethany hosted a national convention of members of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. This event was attended by over 750 people from points as far away as Canada, California, Florida and New York state.

The importance of House Bill 2803 to Bethany College and the Lindsborg community should not be underestimated. Both community and college are major assets to the state of Kansas, particularly for their contributions to the educational and cultural fabric of the state. Unfortunately, the route to Lindsborg for travelers going east or west on Interstate 70 is obscured by the total absence of official directional signs. The support of the state of Kansas in installing appropriate highway signs is crucial to the continuing development of Bethany College and Lindsborg as resources that benefit all Kansans.

Submitted to the House Transportation Committee, February 15, 1988

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Ristuben
President



Post Office Box 70 - 67456

February 15, 1988

Chairman Rex Crowell and members of the House Transportation Committee:

I am Don Anderson, Lindsborg City Councilman, representing the Lindsborg City Council.

I am here to talk about change and our ability as a State to manage change. Although there are some changes over which we have no influence, even though it affects us profoundly, I want to talk about change in Kansas that we can influence.

Today Kansas faces many difficult challenges. Kansas is changing from a predominately agricultural economy to one focused on people services and industry. The Kansas population has declined from 2.27% of the U. S. population in 1890 to 1.04% in 1980. It is projected to drop to 0.93% by 2000. Presently Kansas has one of the slowest population growths in the nation. Kansas has also become the 9th ranking state in population over the age of 65. Although we still have a larger rural population than the U. S. average, a great many people have moved to regions of employment opportunity bound by Interstates 35, 135 and 70.

These and other factors have significantly eroded the economic base to the point where we find many communities that are economically

stagnant and we have uneven economic development because of the gravitation to the urban areas.

The leaders in Lindsborg were wise enough to recognize these trends several years ago and launched a very pro active program to stabilize and then improve economic development in Lindsborg. The strategy called for an all out community effort to attract tourists into the community through the development of businesses, festivals, cultural attractions and performing arts. Lindsborg is also proud of its many studio artists and fine art galleries.

Professionally designed road signs have been placed on I-135 and I-70 to inform travelers about the charming community of Lindsborg. Tourists come to Lindsborg frequently; our businesses and entertainment caters to them. However, national and international travelers on I-70 who are seeking Lindsborg find no official signage indicating when or where to turn to Lindsborg. Frequently tourists express frustration in having had to inquire where to turn to Lindsborg or in having to turn around to find the turn off to Lindsborg.

Lindsborg is not sitting back asking for you to do it for us. Lindsborg is asking that we work in partnership to compliment efforts to encourage tourists to linger a little longer. Your support of HB 2803, sponsored by Representative Sprague, is one action we are asking you to take to help a small town in the middle of Kansas to survive and in so doing, to add to the economic development of Kansas as a whole.

We must prevail upon every opportunity to attract tourist to Kansas and to help direct them while in Kansas.

Your support of HB 2803 is needed.



McPHERSON COUNTY

February 13, 1988

Members of House Transportation Committee

On behalf of the McPherson County Commission which recognizes tourism as a vital industry in balancing the economy of our county and the State of Kansas, I urge your support of the bill authorizing signage for the I-70 and I-135 Interchange directing travelers to Lindsborg.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

John C. Magnuson
Commission Chairman

JCM/vas

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

McPherson County
Courthouse

John C. Magnuson, Chairman
District 1

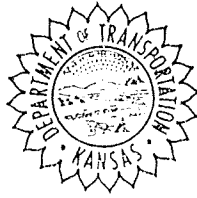
John W. Casebeer
District 2

Tony Wedel
District 3

P.O. Box 676
Phone No. 316-241-8149

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STATE OF KANSAS



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Docking State Office Building
Topeka 66612-1568
(913) 296-3566*

Horace B. Edwards
Secretary of Transportation

February 17, 1988

Mike Hayden
Governor of Kansas

Memorandum To: The House Transportation Committee

From: Kansas Department of Transportation

Regards: House Bill 2803

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. House Bill 2803 requires the Department to erect directional signs indicating the location of the City of Lindsborg, at the junction of Interstate 70 and Interstate 135.

The Department understands the intent of the legislation is to promote the City of Lindsborg and its Swedish heritage. However, the Department has concerns with the results from such legislation.

- K.S.A. 8-2003 requires the Secretary of Transportation to adopt a sign manual on uniform traffic control devices. The Secretary has adopted the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Transportation Department. The provisions of HB 2803 are in conflict with Section 2F-23 of the Manual, which states, "The sign messages (at interchanges between freeways) should contain only the route shield, cardinal direction and the name of the next control city on that route." Lindsborg is neither the next control city on the route nor is it on the route.

- The Federal Highway Administration has advised the Department that HB 2803 violates the Federal-Aid project agreement signed by the Department and the Federal Highway Administration which requires signing of the route in conformance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.