

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Hayzlett at 1:40 p.m. on March 21, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Beggs, excused
Representative Dillmore, excused
Representative Kauffman, excused
Representative Larkin, excused
Representative Pauls, excused
Representative Powers, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ralph Goodnight, Mayor, City of Lakin

Others attending:

Attendance not taken

HCR 6007 - supporting the designation of U.S. Highway 50 as a multistate trade corridor

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **HCR 6007**. Ralph Goodnight, Mayor of Lakin, said he was representing the Sante Fe Chapter of the US Highway 50 Association. He told the committee this group is comprised of eight counties that Highway 50 travels through. Their organization feel that one of the best attributes to the Highway they promote is its location in Kansas and the fact that this is the main route between Wichita and Hutchinson areas in Central Kansas to Pueblo, Colorado and the I-25 corridor. In their efforts to attract attention to US Highway 50 they have inquired with Congressman Jerry Moran's office about procuring federal dollars for improvements, or demonstration projects. They were told that Highway 50 would have to first be designated a multistage trade corridor in order to qualify at the federal level and this designation must first be made by the state legislature. He concluded he was appearing before them to ask that this designation be approved. (Attachment 1)

There were no other proponents and no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **HCR 6007**.

With committee approval Chairman Hayzlett opened **HCR 6007** for final action. Representative Phelps made a motion to pass HCR 6007 favorably, seconded by Representative Osborne and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, March 25.

Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
RE: HR 6007
March 21, 2002

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Mayor Ralph T. Goodnight of the City of Lakin. I am also the Kearny County representative to the Santa Fe Chapter of the US Highway 50 Association. So you may become better acquainted with our organization, I have provided a copy of an informational brochure. Our group is comprised of eight counties that Highway 50 travels through. These eight counties are the western most counties commencing on the Colorado state line in Hamilton County and travels eastward through Reno County. In our infancy we contacted all of the counties in Kansas where Highway 50 travels, however the interest seemed to be shared by these counties.

I appear before you today in support of HR 6007, a resolution designating US Highway 50 a multistate trade corridor. As stated in our brochure the primary mission of the association is to promote US 50 into a major trade route with a vision of someday becoming a four-lane trade corridor. We feel that one of the best attributes to the Highway we promote is its location in Kansas and the fact that this is the main route between Wichita and Hutchinson areas in Central Kansas to Pueblo, Colorado and the I-25 corridor. When one considers the recent improvements on K-96 between Hutchinson and Wichita and the proposed improvements to K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson, we feel Highway 50 is the best route from the Western part of the state to Hutchinson, Wichita and the I-135 corridor.

In our efforts to attract attention to US Highway 50, our organization has inquired with Congressman Jerry Moran's office in procuring federal dollars for improvements, or demonstration projects, we have been told that Highway 50 would have to first be designated a multistate trade corridor, in order to qualify at the federal level, this designation must first be made by the state legislature.

To further this venture, one of the priorities of our association has been to locate like-minded organizations in our neighboring states. To date, we have met with a similar organization in Colorado and have promoted this idea of the federal designation with them. The Colorado group supports the concept and is working with their legislature to gain similar approval. While we have not found a similar organization in Missouri, we continue to search with the hope of having several states come together to promote this idea to Congress.

Just briefly, I would like to share with you that in 1998 more than \$200 million in tourism came through our counties in outside sources and that \$965 million in agriculture related industries were generated in the area the association represents. This commerce and tourism travels primarily on the East/West highway, namely Highway 50. With these numbers in mind, the association has contracted with the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State University to prepare a study on the Economic Consequences of Upgrading US

Highway 50 to Rural Interstate Standards. It is our hope that this study will be completed later this year.

Finally, On behalf of the Santa Fe Chapter of the US Highway 50 Association, I would like to take just a moment to thank the committee for your time today, and Chairman Hayzlett who has been very gracious working with myself and our Chairman, Mr. Earl Willis of Syracuse, Kansas. I would be happy to stand for any questions.