

Approved: 3-13-07

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on March 8, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Don Hill- absent

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes

Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bruce Breslow of Moon Marble Co., Bonner Springs, KS

Representative Larry Powell

Jerry Younger, Asst. Secretary, Kansas Dept. of Transportation

The Chair introduced Bruce Breslow who gave a power point presentation on the beginning of Moon Marble Company and it's expansion over the last ten years. (Attachment 1).

Questions and answers followed.

HB 2534 - the funding of construction of direct access points by the Department of Transportation.

A briefing on **HB 2534** was given by Jason Long.

Representative Powell appeared as a proponent for **HB 2534**. (Attachment 2).

Questions and answers followed.

Jerry Younger addressed the Committee as an opponent of **HB 2534**. (Attachment 3).

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2007.

MOON MARBLE COMPANY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Moon Marble began ten years ago with just a small amount of square footage on one end of our old industrial building. We had several bins full of marbles to pick from, a selection of game boards that we produced in our wood shop and an assortment of nostalgic type toys.

Since that humble beginning the business has expanded to take over approximately 7,500 square feet of building space and offers glass working demonstrations, field trip opportunities and educational classes.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Several days each week we offer glass working demonstrations to the general public. There is no charge for these presentations and it creates a lot of interest and excitement in the audience. This precipitates a volume of return visitors who utilize us as a destination point to bring friends and relatives when they visit. We regularly have guests from across the United States and from many countries around the world.

FIELD TRIPS

Children's groups from all around Kansas City as well as neighboring towns come to experience our field trip program. These include schools, summer programs and daycare facilities, scout and brownie troops and many more.

We also have adult groups, not just from this area but we are often included in the itineraries of tour busses from out of state.

GLASS WORKING CLASSES

The demonstrations sparked the interest of many visitors that wanted to try their hand at torch working so in 2005 we instituted the Moon Marble School of Glass. We have recently been speaking with the Kansas City Art Institute about the possibility of their students utilizing our facility since they do not have glass working provisions available at their school.

CUSTOMER BASE

A large percentage of our visitors come from outside of the immediate area, having either heard of us through word of mouth or from reading one the many articles that have been written over the years. An article in Discover magazine several years ago mistakenly put in the wrong phone number for our store. It turned out that the number they used belonged to state representative Ray Cox. Fortunately Mr. Cox had a good sense of humor about the error and he would drop by with a handful of messages from his answering machine en route to work here at the Capital.

Economic Development & Tourism

Date: 3-8-07

Attachment # 1-1

PENDING IMPROVEMENTS

BILLBOARD

There is a lot of traffic going by Bonner Springs Kansas on Highway I-70. Since the closing of the tourism center there is not information available for passers by wishing to stop and spend time in the area. . It would be a great advantage to Bonner Springs to have billboard advertising on the highway to let travelers in the area know what is available to them.

PARKING

We have limited parking at our facility and have brought in a lot of gravel in an effort to make the space usable. The city storm sewers are inadequate to carry off the water during rainstorms. It pours down our driveway like a waterfall and gathers in the parking area in back of the building. The railway tracks prevent the water from reaching the river just a short distance behind so we are left waiting for sun and wind to evaporate what the saturated ground can't take in. This is further aggravated by the fact that the ground level of the lot was left about 12 inches lower when fiber optic cable was run through there about 12 years ago. To remedy the situation would require drainage past the tracks and adequate gravel to raise the ground level but unfortunately we seem to be caught in a grey area between the city and railroad.

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CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

March 6, 2007

Chairman Gordon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you Madam Chair for hearing my testimony today.

HB - 2534 - I introduced this bill because in my opinion, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) stifling economic development by requiring certain enhancements from businesses located adjacent to highways.

I believe that for small entrepreneurs trying to start a small business, this is something that is a real deterrent. For big businesses such as Wal-Mart it is not a problem.

Picture this, someone must mortgage his house and borrow money from his retired mother to start a business. Then KDOT requires approximately a \$250,00 enhancement. He cannot afford the KDOT's requirement, so the business is stopped before it even gets a chance to start.

Thank you for your attention.

I will stand for questions.

Economic Development & Tourism
Date: 3-8-07
Attachment # 2

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2534
RELATING TO THE FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF DIRECT ACCESS
POINTS TO THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
March 8, 2007**

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Jerry Younger, Assistant Secretary and State Transportation Engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here to testify in opposition to HB 2534.

The proposed legislation would require KDOT to provide direct access from the State Highway System (SHS) to and from any business located adjacent to the highway; and would require KDOT to utilize State Highway Fund monies for the cost of constructing this direct access.

Each year approximately 130 commercial access permits are issued along the SHS (see attachment). Currently, KDOT requires the business or commercial developer to pay the cost of constructing or modifying access points as well as improvements that are needed as a result of increased traffic at the entrance (turn lanes, traffic signals, et cetera). This policy is consistent with city, county and other state DOT practices. If this bill were enacted, KDOT would be required to pay for these commercial access points.

The cost of constructing new access points can vary greatly dependant upon the traffic volume and turning movements. The costs of at-grade improvements could range anywhere from \$40,000 to \$400,000. If a grade separated interchange were required, costs would range from \$10 to \$15 million each. The additional annual construction cost to the state is conservatively estimated at \$25 million (based on 2006 permits). However, it would be reasonable to expect an increase in the number of businesses adjacent to the SHS to request access since they no longer would be required to pay for that construction. These costs are neither included in the agency's current Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP) nor the agency's budget.

It is critical to properly manage the number and spacing of access points along streets and highways to keep crashes at a minimum and to maximize the capacity of the roadway. KDOT's Corridor Management Policy establishes how access points are managed along the SHS to address those specific issues. This policy would be severely impaired by enactment of this bill.

KDOT is opposed to HB 2534. Thank you for your time, I will gladly stand for questions.

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ATTACHMENT

ACCESS PERMITS ISSUED BY KDOT (2004 – 2006)

Access Type	2004	2005	2006	Total Per Type
Total Non-Commercial Access Permits	130	161	140	431
Total Commercial Permits Per Year	117	138	139	394
Special-Use (utilities, treatment plant, etc.)	7	25	23	55
Fire Station and / or Paramedic Emergency Facility	1	2	0	3
Commercial – Low Volume	40	32	38	110
Commercial – Medium Volume	51	63	60	174
Commercial – High Volume	18	16	18	52

Note:

Inventory of access points to the SHS in Kansas is underway. The current count exceeds 85,000 with four counties remaining to be inventoried.

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