

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on February 2, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present, except:

Representative Pat Maloney, excused
Representative Julie Menghini, excused
Representative Sharon Schwartz, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Janice Pauls,
Richard Shank, representing officials of City of Hutchinson and family members
Marvin Spees, President of Capital City Oil, Inc., Topeka, KS

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett called the meeting to order. He then opened the hearing on **HB 2535**.

HB 2535 - Designating part of K-61 highway as the John Neal memorial highway.

The Chairman noted Speaker O'Neal was in the audience and asked if he would like to make some comments. Speaker O'Neal said he was just there to offer his personal comments. He said he and John Neal had been friends for many, many years and that John was a long-time strong supporter of highway programs. He said it was very fitting to honor John's life by having a segment of a new four-lane highway between Hutchinson and Medora named after him. He concluded by asking the Committee to join them in honoring a great man. Speaker O'Neal provided a newspaper article to the Committee about the renaming of part of Highway 61. (Attachment #1)

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Representative Pauls. (Attachment #2) According to Representative Pauls, Mr. Neal was a great civic leader and a visionary who was a major voice for improved highway corridors to their city. She said he spent a lot of time and energy supporting projects in Hutchinson and Reno County. Representative Pauls talked about Mr. Neal, who owned a dry cleaners, starting a project of "coats for kids" as well as many other civic projects like raising money for cancer research. She concluded by saying one of John Neal's major passions was the improvement of the highway access to Hutchinson and it would be a fitting memorial to his efforts to name this section of Highway 61 in his honor.

The next proponent to be recognized was Richard Shank, representing the officials of the City of Hutchinson and John Neal's family. (Attachment #3) Mr. Shank first met Mr. Neal in 1988 when Mr. Shank moved to Hutchinson. He said John Neal had intense interest in passage of a transportation plan that included a four-lane highway from Hutchinson to Wichita. Years later Mr. Neal was urging passage of a ten-year transportation plan that included widening K-61 from Hutchinson to McPherson. Mr. Shank said John Neal was a respected businessman and family man. He served on the city council, was mayor, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and held many other civic positions. Mr. Shank asked the Committee to support this bill to honor a man who, as a good friend said, "walked the walk and talked the talk."

Richard Shank introduced Mr. Neal's widow to the Committee.

There were no other proponents listed. There were no opponents so the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2535**. Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearing on **HB 2510**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 2, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

HB 2510 - Temporary vehicle registration, use of permit.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Marvin Spees, President of Capital City Oil, Inc. (Attachment #4) According to Mr. Spees, often times new and used trucks are delivered without complete paperwork. He said they need to get the trucks on the road as quickly as possible after purchase. Current law allows for only the first 48 hours and the time to receive a title and purchase a tag for the vehicle is beyond the 48 hours. Mr. Spees said it usually takes a few days to get the trucks ready and it is not uncommon that the truck is equipped and ready to go and the paperwork has not arrived so they can get a license tag. He said a 30-day temporary tag would allow the paperwork time to arrive. He urged the Committee to support **HB 2510**.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the testimony of Representative Bob Bethell who had planned to testify but was delayed in another committee meeting (Attachment #5).

There were no other proponents and no opponents so Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2510**.

Chairman Hayzlett opened **HB 2436** to the Committee for discussion, comments or motions. After questions were answered Representative Schwartz made a motion to amend and add the title "1st Lt.". The motion to amend was seconded by Representative Wetta and the motion carried. Representative Schwartz made a motion to pass favorably **HB 2436**, as amended, seconded by Representative Peck and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett opened **HB 2486** to the Committee for discussion, comments or motions. After some discussion Representative Peck made a motion to pass favorably **HB 2486**, seconded by Representative Wetta and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett opened **HB 2535** to the Committee for discussion, comments or motions. Representative Ballard made a motion to pass favorably **HB 2535**, seconded by Representative Maloney and the motion carried.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MICHAEL R. (MIKE) O'NEAL
SPEAKER

The Hutchinson News

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 A5

WIDE WEST

Highway stretch may get new name

Lawmakers seek to have part of K-61 renamed for late resident who supported expansion project.

BY MARY CLARKIN

The Hutchinson News
mclarkin@hutchnews.com

One of the last campaigns in John Neal's life was to help secure funding to widen K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson.

Victory arrived in August 2000, when the Kansas Department of Transportation announced the K-61 project and 28 other proposals across the state would receive a slice of the \$1 billion System Enhancement Program money. However, death in 2005 at age 64 meant Neal did not live long enough to see construction on a four-lane K-61 begin.



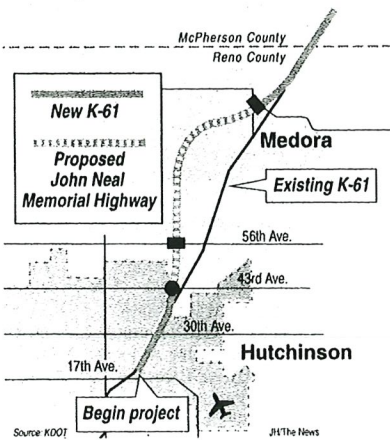
NEAL

On Monday, Kansas House Speaker Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, and Rep. Jan Pauls, D-Hutchinson, introduced legislation to name an approximately four-mile stretch of the future K-61, from the north city limits of Hutchin-

son to the southern city limits of Medora, the John Neal Memorial Highway.

Two green highway signs bearing the words "John Neal Memorial Highway," divided on two lines, would be erected for traffic moving in each direction. Privately raised donations would pay for the two signs, wooden posts and concrete footings, with donations also needed to supply an additional 50 percent of the initial cost, "to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such signs," the proposed House bill stipulated.

Lee Holmes, state signing engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, calculated the total sum needed to be raised and forwarded to



KDOT would amount to \$5,040. The signs would not be made until funding was raised, he indicated. He also said K-61 is not expected to be completed until late 2011.

Neal graduated from Hutchinson High School and

Hutchinson Community College, eventually earning a law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law. He returned to Hutchinson and was owner and president of Ineeda Cleaners, and active in the community. At varying times, Neal was mayor of Hutchinson, president of the Rotary Club and Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, and head of boards at the local hospital and the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Cen-

ter. Neal also spearheaded a chamber committee that pushed for a wider K-96 between Hutchinson and Wichita - achieved in the 1990s - and subsequently, a wider K-61.

Son Matt Neal said his father was "very passionate" about the highway projects, considering them vital for Hutchinson to be accessible and competitive.

Both projects faced their share of red tape and politics, noted another son, David Neal, and took "real creativity" - plus years of effort - to bring to fruition.

"I can't speak for him, but I think if he could point to two things that he was really proud of, those would be right up near the top of the list," David Neal said.

The brothers credited their father's friend, former local radio broadcaster Dan Deming, for promoting the idea of recognizing Neal's commitment to Hutchinson by naming the highway stretch for him.

K-61 runs approximately 74 miles, from Pratt to Interstate 135 at McPherson. The only other section of K-61 named for someone is the portion in Hutchinson, named for Ken Kennedy, the Hutchinson police officer slain in 1972.

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House Transportation
Date: 2-2-10
Attachment # 1

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TOPEKA

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CHAIR:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE
LEGISLATORS COMMITTEE ON LAW AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

February 2, 2010

Before the House Transportation Committee

Testimony on House Bill 2535

Chairman Hayzlett, Vice-Chair Vickrey and Ranking Democrat Long, I appreciate this opportunity to present testimony on HB 2535.

This bill would name a portion of K-61 from Hutchinson to Medora as the John Neal Memorial Highway.

In September of 2005, Hutchinson lost a great civic leader and a visionary who was a major voice for improved highway corridors to our city. John Neal was a wonderful part of our Hutchinson community. He spent a lot of his time and energy supporting many projects in Hutchinson and Reno County. John was involved in many civic and philanthropic organizations, raising money for cancer research and starting his own project "Coats for Kids". Owing a dry cleaners, he took in and cleaned used coats at Christmas to redistribute to needy children. That is still a yearly project along with efforts of the John Neal Foundation that raises money for cancer research.

One of John's major passions was the improvement of the highway access to Hutchinson and he worked for many years for safe four-lane improvements to highways 96 and 61. The four-lane expansion of US 96 between Hutchinson and Wichita has proven to be a tremendous success and the current four-lane upgrade of US 61 between Hutchinson and 135 at McPherson will fulfill the vision John had so many years ago. Those of us in Hutchinson are quite aware of the role John played in promoting these road improvements and it would be a fitting memorial to his efforts to name this section of Highway 61 in his honor.

The cost for signs for this memorial highway will be raised locally, with no cost to the state.

I'll be glad to stand for questions.

Thank you again for this opportunity to give testimony.

House Transportation
Date: 2-2-10
Attachment # 2

TESTIMONY BY RICHARD SHANK OF HUTCHINSON IN SUPPORT OF
JOHN NEAL MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Transportation Committee,
I am Richard Shank of Hutchinson and am honored to speak in support of a piece of legislation that, if enacted, will designate four miles of the new four lane K-61 Highway from the north city limits of Hutchinson to the south city limits of Medora as the John Neal Memorial Highway. The highway is slated for completion in late 2011.

In September, 1988, my employer, Southwestern Bell, transferred me to Hutchinson. One of the first business leaders that I would meet was John Neal. Six months later, John and his group of highway proponents literally relocated to Topeka to urge passage of a transportation plan that would include a four lane highway from Hutchinson to Wichita. During this time, John was a regular at this committee and often testified. As you may remember, the Transportation plan passed the House by a vote of 63-62 and it was due in no small part to John. Eleven years later, John was back at the legislature to urge passage of a ten year transportation plan that, when enacted, included widening K-61 from Hutchinson to McPherson to four lanes.

John was Hutchinson's Mr. Highway but there was more to him than just roads. He grew up in Hutchinson and was a respected businessman and family man. His name is engraved on every major civic improvement project in the city from the 1970s until his death in 2005.

He served on the city council, was mayor, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, President of the Rotary Club, Chairman of the Board of the Kansas Cosmosphere, and was instrumental in the establishment of a salt museum in Hutchinson. Also, I am told that he did many good and anonymous deeds that continue to serve our city. As one of his good friends told me this past weekend, John Neal walked the walk and talked the talk.

There are a number of issues under debate at the legislature this year, but one that I am certain will be unanimously supported by Hutchinson and Reno County residents is a bill to designate four miles of the new K-61 Highway as the John Neal Memorial Highway. Thank you Chairman Hayzlett for this opportunity to present our story to honor one of Hutchinson's greatest civic leaders.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Rep. Gary Hayzlett, Chairman

In Support of H.B. 2510
February 2, 2010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Marvin Spees, President of Capital City Oil, Inc. (CCO) headquartered in Topeka. CCO also has additional facilities in Manhattan, Wamego, Lawrence, and Kansas City. We are a 50 year fuel and lubricants distributor that currently runs 11 class 8 heavy duty trucks.

I appear here today in support of HB 2510. Over the years we've purchased a number of new as well as used trucks. Often times, new and used trucks are delivered without complete paperwork. The truck dealer always seems to get his check right away, but they often can't produce the Manufacturers Statement of Origin (MSO) or Certificate of Title.

The current two day period is not a workable situation for which a truck may be operated in a laden condition. Our objective is to get the truck on the road as soon as possible after purchase. It usually takes a few days to get pumps, decals and other equipment installed and it is not uncommon for the truck to be ready to go and still not have enough paperwork to get the tag.

If we had the opportunity to run on a 30 day temporary tag, this would allow the paperwork to arrive and then CCO would be able to put the truck in service. Adoption of HB 2510 will not reduce the amount of registration fees the state will collect since these are figured from the date the title or MSO is transferred to the new owner.

On behalf of CCO, I respectfully request that the House Transportation Committee report HB 2510 favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

House Transportation
Date: 2-2-10
Attachment # 4

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TOPEKA

House Transportation
Room 783 Docking State Office Building
HB 2510
February 2, 2010

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Transportation Committee, I am Bob Bethell, Representative of the 113th District.

I appear before you today to support HB 2510.

Currently the statutes in Kansas provide for a thirty day tag when purchasing a tractor for a tractor trailer combination or a large truck. However the statute allows for only the first forty eight (48) hours. The time to receive a title and purchase a tag for the vehicle is beyond the 48 hours.

To give explanation: A constituent of the 113th District is the owner of a small business that removes trees and is currently working on the infrastructure for the electrical grid that is being constructed currently in Kansas. A used tractor was purchased a cost of approximately \$26,000.00. He also purchased a thirty day tag expecting to be able to use the vehicle while the title was being transferred to his business. Only to find out that the tractor could be used for the first 48 hours.

At the time of the purchase his company was working 70 hours a week. The company charges \$125.00 per hours for the use of the tractor and as you do the math you can see that during that time not only was his purchase of \$26,000.00 not beneficial but the company lost \$35,000.00 in revenue for the use of the tractor.

I respectfully request that you pass HB 2510 favorable for passage. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman I will stand for questions.

House Transportation
Date: 2-2-10
Attachment # 5