

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Janis Pauls, Representative, State of Kansas
Matt Neal, Citizen of Reno County, son of the late John Neal
Dave Kerr, Executive Director, Reno County Chamber of Commerce
Richard Shank, Citizen of Reno County
Sharon Schwartz, Representative, State of Kansas
Patrick Breeding, brother of the late Michael Hugh Breeding

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2535 - Designating part of K-61 highway as the John Neal memorial highway**.

Janis Pauls, Representative, State of Kansas, presented testimony supporting **HB 2535**. She indicated that in September 2005 Hutchinson lost a great civic leader and visionary who was a major voice for improved highway corridors to that city. One of John Neal's major passions was the improvement of the highway access to Hutchinson and worked for many years for safe four-lane improvements to highways 96 and 61. Representative Pauls concluded that 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 (Attachment 1).

Matt Neal, Citizen of Reno County, son of the late John Neal, spoke of the love his father had for Hutchinson, and his vision of the city's need for viable, safe, four-lane highways to attract businesses to the city. Passage of **HB 2535** would be an honor to him and to his family.

Dave Kerr, Executive Director, Reno County Chamber of Commerce testified in favor of **HB 2535**, stating that he believes it is important to provide recognition for people who make exceptional efforts to improve their community. John Neal's efforts spanned decades, spending enormous amounts of time in Topeka and around the State in 1988 and 1989, to encourage passage of a ten-year transportation plan. When the bill passed, it included system enhancements on K-96 between Hutchinson and Wichita. Ten years later, passage of the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Plan eventually resulted in the major improvements to K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson, currently under construction. He concluded that if it wasn't for the enlightened work of John Neal, Hutchinson might still be struggling with minimal highway access instead of enjoying the prospect of becoming a community attractive to international manufacturers (Attachment 2).

Richard Shank, Citizen of Reno County appeared as a proponent of **HB 2535** indicating that John Neal 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 (Attachment 3).

There being no further conferees the hearing on **HB 2535** was closed.

The Chairman seeing no opposition called for action on the bill. Senator Donovan moved, Senator Petersen seconded, to recommend **HB 2535** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger opened the hearing on **HB 2436 - Michael Hugh Breeding memorial bridge.**

Sharon Schwartz, Representative, State of Kansas provided testimony in support of **HB 2436**, which will designate bridge No. 62 on US Highway 77 in Marshall County as the 1st Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding memorial bridge. She stated that naming the bridge in his honor would give recognition to a man who grew up in this community, served in the armed forces, fought in the Vietnam War and ultimately received the Purple Heart. The cost for the signs will be raised locally, with no cost to the State (Attachment 4).

Patrick Breeding, brother of the late Michael Hugh Breeding appeared as a proponent of **HB 2436**. He stated that his brother graduated from the University of Kansas in 1967, completing Officer Candidate School training with the United States Marine Corps between his junior and senior year. Forty years ago he was piloting an F4B attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 and failed to return from the mission. Mr. Breeding continued that his brother was declared killed in action a month later, two days short of his 25th birthday. In addition to naming the bridge after Michael, the Kansas Department of Transportation has agreed to add the following to the sign: DEDICATED TO HONOR ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM (Attachment 5).

There being no further conferees the hearing on **HB 2436** was closed.

The Chairman called for action on **HB 2436**. Senator Kultala moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to recommend **HB 2436** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

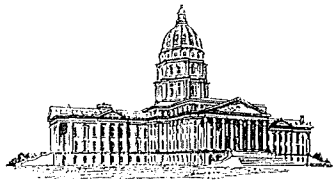
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2010.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-25-10

NAME	REPRESENTING
Richard Shank	City of Hutchinson
PATRICK BRISWAIN	SELF
PATRICK BRISWAIN	SELF
Leonard Bargmann	Self
Leita Bargmann	Self
Sharon Schwartz	Rep 106th
Terry Heidner	KDOT
MARK BOZANYAK	CAPITOR STRATEGIES

JANICE L. PAULS
 REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 102
TOPEKA ADDRESS:
 STATE CAPITOL, SUITE 420 SOUTH
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
 (785) 296-7657
HUTCHINSON ADDRESS:
 1634 N. BAKER
 HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501-5621
 (620) 663-8961



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:
 JUDICIARY

MEMBER:
 HOUSE RULES AND JOURNAL
 COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE
 JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE
 ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS
 OVERSIGHT
 JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE
 ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND
 REGULATIONS

MEMBER OF KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

CHAIR:
 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE
 LEGISLATORS COMMITTEE ON LAW AND
 CRIMINAL JUSTICE

February 25, 2010

Before the Senate Transportation Committee

Testimony on House Bill 2535

Chairman Umbarger, Vice-Chair Marshall and Ranking Democrat Kultala, 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". Owning 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.

Testimony In Support
Of The John Neal Memorial Highway
February 25, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I come before you this morning because I believe it is important to provide recognition for people who make exceptional efforts to improve their community. In the case of John Neal, it was an effort that spanned several decades and involved many important roles. Although he served in the very public positions of City Council Member, Mayor, Chairman of the Chamber Board, President of the Rotary Club and Chairman of the Board of the Cosmosphere, John made some of his most important contributions in projects where he had no official role at all.

One of John Neal's passions on behalf of his hometown of Hutchinson, was improved highway access. For many years, Hutchinson held the dubious title of being the largest city in the State not served by a four-lane highway. Unquestionably, the City's future would not be favorable unless that changed. For several years during the 1980's, John and others attended every meeting they could find to encourage meaningful highway improvements, all to no avail.

When the Hayden Administration began talk of a ten year highway plan in 1988, John Neal and his colleagues saw their opportunity. Over the next two years, they spent an enormous amount of time in Topeka and around the State to encourage passage of the plan. When the bill finally passed in 1989 by the narrowest of margins, the System Enhancements eventually chosen included K-96 between Hutchinson and Wichita.

Ten years later, the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Plan eventually resulted in the major improvements to K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson that are now under construction. But even that didn't happen until after John Neal led the local effort to exchange lane miles of maintenance with KDOT. It can truly be said that if it were not for the enlightened work of John Neal, Hutchinson might still be struggling with minimal highway access instead of enjoying the prospect of becoming a community attractive to international manufacturers.

For all of the above reasons, I would ask for your favorable action on HB 2535.

Dave Kerr

TESTIMONY BY RICHARD SHANK OF HUTCHINSON TO SENATE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF JOHN NEAL
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Chairman Umbarger 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 legislature by a narrow vote in both houses 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 Umbarger for this opportunity to present our story to honor one of Hutchinson's greatest civic leaders.

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SHARON J. SCHWARTZ
2051 20th Road
Washington, Kansas 66968
(785) 325-2568
sharon.schwartz@house.ks.gov



*State Representative
106th District
State Capitol, Room 161 West
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7637*

CHAIR
Local Government Committee
Select KPERS Committee

HB 2436

Testimony for the Senate Transportation Committee

February 25, 2010

Chairman Umbarger and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2436, which will designate bridge No. 62 on US Highway 77 in Marshall County as the 1st Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding memorial bridge. Funding for the necessary signs will come from donations or gifts and more importantly at "no" cost to the state.

Background

I was contacted by Michael's brother and several interested parties who asked if I would work with them towards naming bridge No. 62 in his honor. The current bridge over the Blue River at Blue Rapids is being replaced with bridge No. 62 this coming year. This would certainly give recognition to a man who grew up in this community, served in the U.S. armed forces, fought in the Vietnam War and ultimately received the Purple Heart.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have regarding HB2436.

Senate Transportation
2-25-10
Attachment 4

Chairman Umbarger and members of the Committee – good morning!

HB 2436, that was introduced by Representative Sharon Schwartz, is a bill that would designate the bridge over the Big Blue River north of Blue Rapids as the 1st Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding Memorial Bridge.

My name is Patrick Breeding and Mike is my brother.

Mike is the son of Merle and Blondie Breeding and was born in Marysville, Kansas on March 19, 1945. The family moved to Blue Rapids when Mike was young and Mike completed all of his schooling in the Blue Rapids school system, graduating from High School in 1963.

Mike completed his college education at the University of Kansas with a degree in Business Administration. Between his junior and senior year Mike successfully completed Officer Candidate School training with the United States Marine Corps. After graduation from Kansas University in the spring of 1967 Mike went on active duty entering flight school where he trained to be a fighter pilot.

Forty years ago on the 12th of February, 1970, Mike was piloting an F4B attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, based in Chu Lai, South Viet Nam, when it failed to return from a mission near Quang Tri Providence and he was declared Missing in Action.

Mike's status was changed from Missing in Action to Killed in Action on March 17, 1970 – two days before his 25th birthday – and a memorial service was held on April 12th of 1970 at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Marysville.

With plans to construct a new bridge over the Big Blue River at Blue Rapids in the near future, it provides an opportunity to honor Mike, and his family and friends, by naming the new bridge the 1st Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding Memorial Bridge.

We are very fortunate that we live in the United States of America – a free people in a free nation, but the ultimate sacrifice for that freedom has been paid time and time again.

WW I saw 126,000 Americans killed in action – with an additional 4,500 either declared missing in action or prisoners of war.

In WW II there were almost 400,000 Americans killed in action or declared missing in action.

The Korean conflict added another 36,000 to that list.

And Viet Nam, a war that tore this country apart, saw an additional 58,148 American deaths.

As of this weekend, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in over 5,200 deaths.

Over 625,000 Americans have given their lives for their country so we can stand here today as a free nation.

HB 2436 reads that the bridge will be named the:

1st Lt. MICHAEL HUGH BREEDING MEMORIAL BRIDGE

And the Kansas Department of Transportation has graciously agreed to add the following language on the sign.

**“DEDICATED TO HONOR ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN
DEFENSE OF AMERICA’S FREEDOM”**

With this additional language we will not only be honoring Mike by naming the bridge after him – but we will also be paying a tribute to all of the other men and women that have made the supreme sacrifice.

If even one person – who sees this sign – takes a moment to think about what the price of freedom is – this project will be a great memorial to Mike and many other Americans.

Thank you Chairman Umbarger, and members of the Committee for taking time this morning to consider this bill.

I would also like to thank Representative Schwartz for her help, Don Kotopish and Lee Bork for their involvement and the Military Order of the Purple Heart for their assistance and support of this project!