

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on January 23, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:     Senator Pugh  
  Senator Schodorf

Committee staff present:     Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department  
  Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
  Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Col. Don Brownlee, KHP

Others attending:     See attached list

**Briefing and overview of agency operations**

Chairman Donovan welcomed Superintendent Col. Don Brownlee and members of the Kansas Highway Patrol, then turned the meeting over to Col. Brownlee who provided members information regarding the structure and multi-functions of the agency (Attachment 1). The Agency's needs and problems in terms of personnel, equipment and funding were also discussed. He also reminded members the Turnpike Authority reimburses the State for all Highway Patrol expenses incurred on/by the Turnpike.

Some members will meet individually with Col. Brownlee to discuss issues raised by their constituents. In response to expressed concerns regarding the state's radio systems' conversion to an 800 megahertz frequency; removal of existing towers when there doesn't seem to be anything workable in place; and the fact that many emergency medical services are unable to communicate on the new system; Col. Brownlee explained this matter is handled by Kansas Department Of Transportation; is really two different issues, and is an on-going process. Resolving the problem statewide carries an approximate twenty-one million dollar price tag.

In response to question of agency morale, Col. Brownlee's opinion is that morale is definitely improved. They are doing a lot to establish levels of communication; work with the bargaining unit, and take other steps to improve morale. Pay issues are always a concern. The subject of new technologies such as Global Positioning System and Global Communication System was also briefly discussed.

Col. Brownlee introduced other Highway Patrol staff present: Lt. Col. Terry Maple, Assistant Superintendent; Walter V. Darling, Fiscal Manager; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Eichkorn, Public Information Officer, and Trooper Mark Engholm, Technical Support.

**Approval of minutes**

Senator Harrington moved to approve minutes of the January 18, 2001 meeting. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2001.

## CONTINUATION SHEET