

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Broderick Henderson- excused
Representative Brenda Landwehr- excused
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kyle Schneweis, Chief of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

Kyle Schneweis, Chief of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), outlined two agency initiatives designed to facilitate intra-, inter-, and extra-agency communication and increase transparency with the public ([Attachment 1](#)). He explained that the T-Link calculator enables any person to see the affect of revenue allocations, priority decisions, and expenditure transitions on highway maintenance and other transportation programs. He illustrated the calculator by showing the relationship between variations in the motor fuels tax and raising or lowering highway quality. Noting that T-Link is interactive, he said that to date the site has received 110 submissions suggesting savings or efficiencies for KDOT. He stated that, following a presentation to the National Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C., a New York *Times* article about the site has generated national interest and regular contact with other states. He commented that the site has been an excellent education tool to help the public understand KDOT's decision-making process.

Answering questions, Mr. Schneweis said the original program was done by agency staff, but when it was expanded, a consultant enhanced the system at a cost of about \$30,000. He said the federal stimulus program will help complete the last year of the 10-year Comprehensive Transportation Program, but the stimulus has too many stipulations to provide much comprehensive help with future projects.

Mr. Schneweis continued by outlining K-TOC (Kansas Transportation Online Community), an online meeting place for Kansans to participate in transportation information and decisions. Noting that Pew Research labeled the site as unique in the country, he stated that last week 38 different states and several overseas groups logged in to see what is going on in the transportation world. He commented that, in the six weeks of the site's existence, over 600 members have signed up, including some from private industry. He said the

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site is more about conversation than data and has helped the agency build credibility with the public. Noting the first-year cost of \$50,000 and annual costs of about \$20,000, he said cost-savings generated by the site will more than pay for the site.

Answering a question, Patrick Quinn, Site Manager, said that most online communities serve private purposes, whereas K-TOC serves a public purpose. Mr. Schneweis replied that twelve other states are interested in creating a similar online community. Several members expressed appreciation for the two KDOT initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. No further meeting was scheduled.