

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 16, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Bob Marshall-excused  
Senator Les Donovan-excused  
Senator Anthony Hensley-excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Toni Beck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Coleen Jennison, Director of Government Affairs, Cox Communications  
Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association  
Joe Erskine, Secretary of Finance and Administration, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger opened the hearing on **HB2033**.

Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications presented the streamlined process for vehicle registration as a proponent. (Attachment 1) Property tax would continue to be paid in the counties for their 560 vehicles with Cox Communications. The bill passed the House 121-0. Coleen commented this is the same procedure as UPS registrations.

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association presented testimony as a proponent. (Attachment 2) Tom was the originator of the bill for fleet registration in 2004 with a fleet of 1300 vehicles allowing 25 vehicles to be registered at one time. All fleet registration must be submitted electronically. The bill allows fleets of 250 or more to utilize this cost saving tool.

There being no further conferees, **HB2033** was closed by Chairperson Umbarger.

Senator Schmidt made a motion. Senator Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairperson Umbarger opened the hearing on **SB119**.

Proponent Joe Erskine, Secretary of Finance and Administration, KDOT was represented by Lindsey Douglas. (Attachment 3) The bill would allow KDOT to capture transfers from the Special City-County Highway Fund as collateral to protect both the state assets and those of the cities and counties utilizing the program. KDOT uses the same scenario for cities and counties for loans under the Transportation Revolving Fund.

Senator Petersen commented the bill should allow communication with rails, city and county working together for economic development. The loan would not apply if it did not benefit local industry and community. Jill Shelley, KLRD, clarified the government unit 'is in coordination' with local government. Senator Huntington questioned if the new grant loan funds would have rail service transport for elevator connections, which they would. The loan agreement is to streamline collateral instead of gas taxes provided by constitutional law. Senator Reitz asked if passenger service was considered as well. Lindsey commented if KDOT receives funds, the secretary could possibly have passenger service. Senator Huntington questioned in a default situation, who would pay; which would be the highway funds/appropriations. Chris Courtwright, KLRD, presented a briefing that rail improvement programs dealing with highway funds go to city and county funds and allow transfer of assets to utilize the program.

Ed McKeckney, Watco, was a proponent for the bill. Railroad decision are based on 100 year plans for

freight rail. Assets are not included because of depreciation schedules and collateral issues. The technical amendment he is in support of is for the 'connection with railroad'. Verbage to be interjected would be a straight forward process for amending the bill, page 2, line D. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony in support of the bill was provided:

Bob Boaldin, Chairman, Western Kansas Development Organization (Attachment 5)

Ron Seeber, VP of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association (Attachment 6)

Senator Kultala suggested to hold over the bill for the Revisor's written statement prior to a motion. Senator Schmidt agreed that public comment would be an issue to process on short time with no written bill before the committee. Daniel Yoza will have SB119 amendments ready for 2/17/11 Transportation meeting.

Chairperson Umbarger closed the hearing on **SB119**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.