

Approved: February 14, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 8:31 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Anthony Hensley - excused

Committee staff present:

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jane Wentz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Tom Holland, District 3, proponent

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, neutral

Ed Klumpp, lobbyist, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Peace Officers Association, and Kansas Sheriffs Association, proponent

Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer, Kansas Department of Transportation, proponent

Captain Rusty Leeds, Wichita Police Department, proponent

Charles Soules, Lawrence Public Works Director, Lawrence, Kansas (written testimony), proponent

Mayor Scott Hopson, City of Eudora, Kansas, proponent

Tom Kramer, Kansas County Highway Association (written testimony), proponent

Carie Lawrence, Grandmother of Cainan Schutt, Gardner, Kansas, proponent

Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities, proponent

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the SENATE TRANSPORTATION Committee at 8:31 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Possible bill or resolution introduction

The Chairperson asked for introduction of bills or resolutions. None were requested.

Approval of January 24, 2012, and January 25, 2012, minutes

Senator Kultala made a motion to accept the January 24, 2012, and the January 25, 2012, minutes as written. Senator Reitz seconded the motion, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on:

SB 342 --Establishing a safety corridor program

Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) spoke in favor of **SB 342** (Attachment 1). Mr. Younger stated that safety corridor legislation is being requested by concerned leaders and citizens of Douglas and Johnson Counties as a direct result of a fatality crash in April 2011. Mr. Younger stated the goal of KDOT is to keep travelers safe while traveling in and through the State.

Mayor Scott Hopson, City of Eudora, Kansas, also spoke in support (Attachment 2).

Carie Lawrence, Gardner, Kansas, addressed the Committee and asked them to pass SB 342. Ms. Lawrence is the Grandmother of Cainan Schutt, a five-year-old child, killed on April 2011 from a crossover accident on K-10 highway.

Captain Rusty Leeds, Wichita Police Department, spoke regarding traffic concerns on US-54 through Wichita and urged the Committee to help make the Wichita community safer by passing **SB 342** (Attachment 3).

Senator Tom Holland, District 3, serving portions of Douglas and Leavenworth counties and all of Jefferson County, spoke in favor of identifying safety corridors in problematic areas (Attachment 4).

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Charles Soules, City of Lawrence ([Attachment 5](#)); Tom Kramer, Kansas County highway Association ([Attachment 6](#)); and Ed Klumpp, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Peace Officers Association, and Kansas Sheriffs Association ([Attachment 7](#)) all provided written testimony in support of **SB 342**.

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, testified before the Committee as a neutral party ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Whitaker stated he would propose three safety corridors be established and monitored to determine viability of the program as intended. Also, Mr. Whitaker proposed language be amended to increase fines in safety corridors only for speeding, a moving violation, and not include all moving violations as designated by K.A.R. 92-52-9. Mr. Whitaker also suggested that the practice of using diversions be prohibited and he expressed concern that cities and counties would use these designated corridors for revenue enhancements. Mr. Whitaker reminded the Committee that current Kansas law allows for a "buffer" on highways posted for an authorized speed limit of 30 miles per hour or more; thus if an individual's excess speed fell within the designated range, the traffic violation is not considered a moving violation for restricting, suspending, or revoking driving privileges and the automobile liability insurance cannot use such incidents for premium rates.

Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities, also confirmed their support for **SB 342**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2012.

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