

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON A NEW COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

December 5, 2008

Regnier Center Building Room 101-A—Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, Kansas

Members Present

Senator Les Donovan, Chairperson
Senator Karin Brownlee
Senator Laura Kelly
Senator Ruth Teichman
Senator John Vratil
Representative Elaine Bowers
Representative Mike Burgess
Representative Margaret Long
Representative Julie Menghini
Representative Don Myers
Representative Jene Vickrey
Representative Vince Wetta

Staff Present

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Secretary

Morning Session

Chairperson Les Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He called on Thomas G. Swenson, representing the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. He requested a “bold” new transportation program (Attachment 1).

A quorum being present, Chairperson Donovan requested approval of the November 12, 2008, minutes. *Senator Teichman moved the minutes be approved; Representative Long seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Heather Morgan, Leavenworth County Administrator, explained the transportation needs of the Leavenworth area ([Attachment 2](#)).

Scott Miller, City Manager, Leavenworth, requested assistance to improve transportation between Leavenworth and Mid-Continent International Airport in Kansas City, Missouri. He also explained the anticipated expansion of Fort Leavenworth and its effects on local transportation ([Attachment 3](#)).

Mayor Ken Bernard of the City of Lansing explained the importance of better access from that area to the Interstate highway system via highway K-5 ([Attachment 4](#)).

Johnson County Commissioner Ed Peterson explained the county's transportation needs due to growth of both the population and economic activity ([Attachment 5](#)).

Alice M. Amrein, Transportation Director for Johnson County Transit, explained increasing needs for transportation for residents who are not able to drive as well as those who use Transit services to go to and from work. She explained the specific services provided ([Attachment 6](#)).

Edgerton City Administrator Dave Dillner presented area concerns and needed projects to make transportation safer and better for the citizens of the area ([Attachment 7](#)).

Gardner Mayor Carol Lehman explained the needs of Gardner, especially those related to the addition of the Kansas City Logistics Hub, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) intermodal facility, and related warehousing and distribution facilities totaling more than 7 million square feet. She introduced Tom Riederer, Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation, and Peter Solie, President of the Gardner Area Chamber of Commerce, who further explained the impact of logistics and distribution in their area ([Attachment 8](#)).

Chairperson Donovan opened the meeting for discussion between Committee members and conferees. Committee question topics included the current status of the BNSF project, the New Century Air Center, and ridership and costs of the K-10 connector service from Lawrence to Johnson County.

Mell Henderson, Director of Transportation, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), explained the function of MARC and its priorities for the Kansas City area ([Attachment 9](#)).

The City of Lenexa was represented by Cindy Green, Council President for Lenexa. She spoke about present needs as well as new development projects coming to the area and their needs ([Attachment 10](#)).

Blake Schreck, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the economic impact of transportation to the area's future.

Bryan Dyer, Community Development Director for the City of Merriam, told the Committee about that city and its transportation needs ([Attachment 11](#)).

Tim McKee, Executive Vice-President of Economic Development, Olathe Chamber of Commerce, explained the economic impact of infrastructure projects (interchanges) in that area ([Attachment 12](#)).

Chairperson Donovan opened the meeting for questions to presenters. In answer to Committee member questions, Mr. McKee and Ms. Green stated that area cities are working together on transportation projects.

No other presenters being present and prepared to address the Committee, the Committee broke for lunch.

Afternoon Session

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Donovan. The first conferees in the afternoon session were from Overland Park. City Council President Tim Hix said the priority for KDOT and Overland Park should be to complete the project included in the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program: US highway 69 between 75th St and 119th Street. Lavern Squier, Senior Vice President of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, played a DVD showing the impact of the completion of the Highway 69 project ([Attachment 13](#)).

The City of Shawnee was represented by Dawn Kuhn, Ward Three Councilperson and President of the Shawnee City Council. She said new development opportunities and increased travel in the region require new transportation investments in that growing community, particularly the K-7 Corridor ([Attachment 14](#)). Jim Martin, Executive Director, Shawnee Economic Development Council, also spoke in favor of improvements along the K-7 Corridor ([Attachment 15](#)).

Chris Leaton, a member of Spring Hill City Council and the Transportation Cooperation Council of Johnson County, pointed out that Spring Hill is growing rapidly. He said the area needs improvement to the K-7/US-169 Corridor ([Attachment 16](#)).

Fred Backus, County/City Engineer, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, listed the transportation needs for the Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, area. Marcia Bernard, Director of Transportation for the Unified Government, explained the need for more funding for the Unified Government Transit system and its uses to transport workers to job sites, particularly to western Wyandotte County ([Attachment 17](#)).

Jim Wise, Chairperson of the County Commission for Miami County, explained the various needs of the Miami County area. Penny Evans, Miami County Engineer, asked the Committee to remember Miami County's needs when formulating the new transportation plan ([Attachment 18](#)).

John Bishop, representing the County Commission and the City Commission of Atchison, presented two resolutions passed by the two commissions, explaining to the Committee the needs of Atchison. He introduced Dave Mahoney, City Engineer, who further discussed Atchison's needs ([Attachment 19](#)). Christy Isaacs, Atchison County Community Development Director, further elaborated on Atchison's needs and a desire for regional solutions.

Alan Cobb, Americans for Prosperity Kansas, discussed data from that organization, concluding that there is no correlation between highways and economic development ([Attachment 20](#)).

Blake Benson, President of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, discussed the need for improvement of Highway 69 between Kansas City and Pittsburg.

Troy Carlson, President and CEO of Initiatives Inc., a consultant to Harvey County, addressed that county's transportation needs in relation to statewide needs ([Attachment 21](#)).

Martin Rivarola, Community Development Director, City of Mission, spoke about that city's needs for allocation of resources towards multi-modal transportation alternatives and the challenges of maintaining existing infrastructure (Attachment 22).

Chairperson Donovan opened the meeting for questions to presenters. In response to Committee member questions, Ms. Evans provided information on a five-county transportation study that is under way, and Ms. Bernard said that transit providers are developing a proposal for a distribution formula for state funds that would take into account both population and ridership.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m., after Chairperson Donovan thanked the college for the wonderful lunch it had provided.

Prepared by Mary Jane Brueck
Edited by Jill Shelley

Approved by Committee on:

January 8, 2009

(Date)