

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer  
Rep. Robert Olson  
Rep. Jene Vickrey  
Rep. Doug Gatewood  
Chuck Yunker, American Legion  
Sen. Mark Taddiken

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Donovan opened the hearing on **SB 523 – Designating part of Kansas highway 25 as the Great Plains Indian highway.**

Proponent:

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer spoke to the bill. This bill would officially designate a forty-three mile corridor of Kansas Highway 25 in Rawlins and Thomas counties extending from I-80 in Nebraska to I-70 on Kansas as the Great Plains Indian Highway. Maps distributed last meeting were used to show where that section of highway is located.. (Attachment 1)

Seeing no others to speak on the bill, Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **SB 523** and opened the hearing on **HB 2071 – Designating certain highways as memorial highways.**

Proponents:

Rep. Robert Olson said a bill was run a couple years ago similar to this on a Memorial Highway. At that time he asked Chuck Yunker what other highways had not been named as memorial highways for wars and came up with a list: Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War II, Korean War, Persian Gulf War, and War on Terrorism. There would be very little fiscal note to do this. There were some problems in the House because several members did not like “War on Terror”, so we decided to propose an amendment for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, to honor the two wars going on right now, in place of War on Terrorism. The amendment was distributed. (Attachment 2 and 3)

Rep. Jene Vickrey explained a House member lives on the highway in question of being named War on Terrorism and said he would not want to tell people he lives on the Terrorism Highway. Rep. Doug Gatewood submitted an amendment to make the name change, but it needed to be redrafted in order to pass the House. (Attachment 4)

Rep. Doug Gatewood expressed his feeling that we should not give recognition to terrorism through the names of our highways. He supports the amendment to change that name to be more specific in honoring our heros. (Attachment 5)

Chuck Yunker, American Legion, also gave his approval of the bill. His written testimony requested a name change of the War on Terrorism highway, but prefers the amendment from Rep. Olson. Mr. Yunker asked for a second amendment to extend the existing World War I Veterans Memorial Highway to match that of the other wars in the bill which run between US 281 west to US 83. (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony was sent to the committee from Sen. Mark Taddiken. Chairman Donovan explained Sen. Taddiken's testimony. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Donovan explained there is no fiscal note on this bill. The law on naming highways was changed several years ago. Now before KDOT does anything about writing and erecting signs, the cost of the signs has to be paid up front plus 50% additional for future maintenance.

Sen. Schmidt moved acceptance of Sen. Taddiken's amendment. Sen. Gilstrap seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Heidner, Kansas Department of Transportation, expressed concern that the name Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom would fit on a highway marker. He said the KDOT has no objection to the renaming of these highways nor with the amendment to change the name War on Terrorism to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rep. Olson said he would look into whether the name would fit on the highway marker, and, if not, would have a different proposal. There was discussion of the necessity to be sure the suggested name for the highway initially named War on Terrorism, be correct. Rep. Olson agreed to check with the Pentagon to see that the right names will be used. It was agreed to hold the amendment until next meeting.

Sen. Vicki Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker how many miles the extension he requested for the World War I highway would be and about any expense to doing that. There would be no expense because the American Legion would pay for any additional signs needed. Chairman Donovan asked Mr. Yunker to get with the Revisor before he leaves and show him, on a map, what is being talked about for this extension.

No others to speak on the consolidated name the highway bill, Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2071**.

No one was here to testify on **HB 2622**, a bill the Highway Patrol requested, so Chairman Donovan will schedule another meeting to take care of that.

Sen. Palmer moved passage of SB 523. Sen. Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sen. Ostmeyer will carry the bill on the floor. If he prefers not to, Chairman Donovan will do so.

Chairman Donovan asked for approval of the minutes of the February 12 meeting. Sen. Schmidt moved for approval of the minutes. Sen. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next meeting will be next Tuesday. At that time we will pick up **HB 2622** and go back to finish **HB 2071**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10. a.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 26.