

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Thursday, March 17, 2016, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Carolyn Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible action on bills previously heard

The Chair called for **Final Action on HB 2610-Designating the junction of interstate highway 70 and commerce parkway as the chief warrant officer 5 David Carter fallen veterans memorial interchange** and called on Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes for an explanation of the bill. *Senator Petersen moved to insert the contents of HB 2722 into HB 2610. Motion seconded by Senator Pettey. Motion carried. Moved by Senator King, seconded by Senator Wolf, that HB 2610, as amended, be commended favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

Informational briefing:

Chairman Petersen welcomed Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Kansas Department of Transportation, to the Committee ([Attachment 1](#)). Mr. Younger noted that KDOT enjoyed the partnership and weekly discussions with Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) representatives. Referencing their recommendation regarding qualifications based selection (QBS), he told the Committee that KDOT has a pre-qualification process in place for certain types and dollar amounts of projects so that companies are considered for projects that fall within their realm. Smaller companies are on an on-call system based on their expertise and resources.

Returning to the Recommendations, Mr. Younger addressed #1 regarding increased partnership between KDOT and the KTA. Senator Wolf inquired about the Topeka KTA location and Mr. Younger responded that the District 1 offices are located at 21st and VanBuren in Topeka. KDOT is considering combining that facility with the KTA offices in south Topeka. KDOT also currently has a joint pavement and bridge management program along with inspection and technical support and continues

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Transportation at 8:30 am on Thursday, March 17, 2016 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

to investigate higher levels of partnership.

Recommendation #2 dealt with elimination of area offices. There are currently 25 area offices and it is Mr. Younger's belief that downsizing is not the appropriate approach to deliver local customers quality service. Offices usually consist of an engineer, an area supervisor, administrative personnel and construction personnel. Even if closure occurs, maintenance personnel would need to remain to provide services to the area such as snow removal. He said local officials know the terrain and provide a point of contact with local citizens.

Mr. Younger does not believe that A&M's recommendation for #3, replacing contractors with in-house staff, indicates true numbers and said he believes this recommendation is premature. He also noted difficulties in recruiting engineers for current openings.

Recommendation #4--In 2012, KDOT sold 357 pieces of equipment and agency officials currently assess and identify equipment to sell every three to four years. Savings generated at the next sale will more than likely be substantially lower than the estimate in the report.

Recommendation #5 relates to permit fees. In calendar year 2015, 154 access permits were issued and 1,717 right-of-way use permits were issued. KDOT is not opposed to increasing permit fees that may produce additional developmental fees.

Concerning sponsorship, Mr. Younger responded to Recommendation #6 by informing the Committee that this avenue had been explored in the past. KDOT officials think the agency needs to develop a different package to generate interest in sponsorship while remaining within the federal requirements.

Centralizing HR staff with Department of Administration as recommended in #7A, KDOT does not believe this is the right approach to take. HR employees located in a district are a local resource who know the local employees and issues.

A request for Proposal (RFP) will go out in March to explore the possibility of selling or leasing portions of the current radio system owned by KDOT as recommended in #8. Primary users of the system are the Kansas Highway Patrol and local and state emergency services.

After questions from the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr. Younger for his presentation.

Presenting additional written testimony in opposition to recommendations from A&M, specifically the recommendation regarding QBS. were Eric Stafford, VP of Government Affairs, The Kansas Chamber([Attachment 2](#)), Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce([Attachment 3](#)), and Terry Humphrey, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects in Kansas([Attachment 4](#)).

There being no further business before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m. There are no further meetings scheduled.

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.

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