

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON A NEW COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

November 24, 2008

Hughes Metropolitan Complex Room 132—Wichita State University
Wichita, Kansas

Members Present

Senator Les Donovan, Chairperson
Representative Gary Hayzlett, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Karin Brownlee
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Derek Schmidt
Senator Ruth Teichman
Representative Mike Burgess
Representative Terrie Huntington
Representative Margaret Long
Representative Julie Menghini
Representative Don Myers
Representative Jene Vickrey
Representative Vince Wetta

Staff Present

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Secretary

Morning Session

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Donovan introduced Bernie Koch, Vice President for Government Relations, Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Koch told the Committee that broad, regional solutions are necessary ([Attachment 1](#)).

Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita, presented the city's current transportation issues ([Attachment 2](#)).

David Spears, Public Works Director, Sedgwick County, distributed a copy of the resolution approved at the September 17, 2008, meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (Attachment 3).

Kathy Sexton, Derby City Manager, spoke on behalf of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) of South Central Kansas (Attachment 4). The Kansas Public Transit Association prepared *A Primer on Public Transit in America* for the Committee (Attachment 5). Paul Faber, Chairperson of the Board of The Kansas Public Transit Association, spoke to the Committee (Attachment 6).

Harvey County Stakeholders' Regional Economic Vision for Transportation presented a large notebook of information regarding the economic development opportunities available to their region and their future transportation needs as well as how filling their transportation needs will provide a return on the investment to the whole state. That notebook is on file with the Legislative Research Department.

Mickey Dean, Executive Director, Harvey County Economic Development Council, presented an overview of the included information.

Pat Hurley, Executive Director of Economic Lifelines, reported on information received from member groups across the State of Kansas identifying their future transportation needs in all modes (Attachment 7).

Tim Witsman, President, Wichita Independent Business Association and the Kansas Independent Business Coalition, said the organization is conducting its annual legislative survey of its members and, once the survey is completed, will know its stand on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. He spoke in support of Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller's multi-modal approach that includes aviation, rail, and transit as part of the true transportation plan (Attachment 8).

Mary Lou Reece of Reece Construction Co., Inc., shared information on her view that transportation is the backbone of the good economy in Kansas. She also shared copies of an article in *US News & World Report*, October 12, 1997, titled "How Kansas Created Good Jobs Without Busting the Budget" (Attachment 9).

Jill Nichols, Rice County Economic Development Director, gave a presentation addressing issues that relate to a Comprehensive Transportation Plan especially as it could affect Rice County (Attachment 10).

John Sweet, City Administrator for Lyons, spoke of the City of Lyons Comprehensive Transportation Program Highway – Aviation, Connecting Links Agreement, KDOT Partnership Program, Candidate Programs for KDOT after 2009, and Recommendations (Attachment 11).

Rod Willis, City Manager, gave a presentation on behalf of the City of Sterling noting the city's concern regarding highways K-14 and K-96 and providing suggestions to make improvements (Attachment 12).

Jake Klaver of Klaver Construction Company, Inc. of Kingman, offered some "limited facts" about the company and how a progressive highway plan will affect the company (Attachment 13).

Russ Tomevi, Director of Public Works/Engineering for the City of Winfield, presented the local and regional transportation needs for the next ten years (Attachment 14).

John Deardoff, City Manager of Hutchison, highlighted several points of concern to his area: completion of projects in the current transportation plan; shared revenue programs; preservation and maintenance of the current road system; and the new transportation program (Attachment 15).

Dave Kerr, President, Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, supported Mr. Deardoff's concerns for their area, and listed points he would like considered in short-term as well as long-term planning for transportation (Attachment 16).

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2008, in Overland Park at Johnson County Community College, Regnier Center Building, Room 101-A.

Prepared by Mary Jane Brueck
Edited by Jill Shelley

Approved by Committee on:

January 8, 2009

(Date)