

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:35 a.m. on March 18, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Nathan McAlister, Teacher, Royal Valley Middle School
Chuck Ferguson, Deputy Transportation Director, Johnson County Transit
Joe Erskin, Deputy Secretary of Finance, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called for action on **HB 2650 - Designating part of U.S. 75 highway as the James Lane Freedom Trail memorial highway.**

Nathan McAlister, Royal Valley Middle School history teacher, representing the students that requested **HB 2650**, proposed changing the name to "The Lane Freedom Trail" and distributed his balloon amendment (Attachment 1).

Discussion followed concerning James Lane's questionable reputation and if it would be appropriate to remove his name entirely, designating the section of highway as the Freedom Trail memorial highway. Mr. McAlister stated that it would be historically incorrect to remove James Lane's name completely as the actual trail was known as the Lane Trail.

After further discussion, Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Kultala seconded, to table HB 2650. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for action on **HB 2561 - Allowing transit buses to be operated on right shoulder of certain highways.** Chuck Ferguson, Deputy Transportation Director, Johnson County Transit, introduced the consultants for the I-35 Bus on Shoulder (BOS) project, John Dobies, Associate Vice President and Kip Straus, Transportation Engineer, with HNTB Corporation. Mr. Dobies and Mr. Straus gave a power point presentation answering questions regarding BOS operations, requested at the March 16 meeting. Included in their presentation was a video showing examples of BOS operations (Attachment 2).

After discussion, the Chairman indicated he would take further action on **HB 2561** at tomorrow's meeting.

The Chairman called for discussion and possible action on **SB 498 - Transportation works for Kansas program, financing** and **SB 515 - Transportation works for Kansas, financing, sales tax on motor-vehicle fuels.** Joe Erskin, Deputy Secretary of Finance, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), reviewed past program geographic distribution of transportation funding in the six KDOT districts (Attachment 3). Policy considerations for the new comprehensive transportation program include the following:

- Distribution percentages should be met over a long period of time
- Minimum of \$5 million per county for highway construction
- A portion should be held back for economic opportunities
- No district shall receive more than 45% of the funding in a new program

A priority list of projects by districts and a traffic flow map was requested from KDOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled on adjournment March 18, 2010.