

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Phillips, President, Kansas Association of Airports
Joel Skelley, Multimodal Planner, Kansas Department of Transportation
Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Martha Neu-Smith, Executive Director, Kansas Manufactured Housing Association
Bruce Burditt, Chief, Office of Financial and Investment Management, Kansas Department of Transportation
Pat Hubbell, Lobbyist, BNSF Railroad
Don Jarrett, Chief Counsel, Johnson County, Kansas
Paul Degener

Others attending:

See attached list.

Presentation on Kansas Airport Funding Needs and Revenue Strategies by:

Steve Phillips, President, Kansas Association of Airports provided the committee with the Kansas Airport Improvement Program's additional investment needs list, currently funded at \$3 million per year for improvement to declining pavement, and their requested needs for Kansas Airports in the New Comprehensive Transportation Plan (Attachment 1).

Additional investment needs include:

- Instrument approaches for 52 county airports
- Improvements in instrument approaches that are out of date
- Investment in Automated Weather Observation Systems
- Contingency funds for airport improvements for local economic development projects

Needs for New Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

- Preservation of existing airport pavements
- Provide all-weather access for emergency medical services
- Fund 10 percent of total airport infrastructure needs
- Respond to economic development opportunities

Following discussion, the Chairman indicated the committee would take these requests under consideration.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 300 - Special overweight or oversize permits; increasing fees.**

Joel Skelley, Multimodal Planner for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), testified in support of **SB 300**. Currently, the cost of issuing single use oversize/overweight permits is more than three times the permit fee, which has placed a substantial hardship on KDOT. He stated that over the last four years, the number of single use oversize weight permits issued has increased 45 percent, but the existing fee structure that supports it has not been increased since the 1950s. KDOT staff worked with Kansas Motor Carriers Association, Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Kansas Department of Revenue, to develop a fee structure that will adequately reflect the costs associated with performing this service (Attachment 2).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director for the Kansas Motor Carriers Association appeared as a proponent of the bill. He indicated that the additional revenue from the fee increases will allow Kansas to streamline the issuance of oversize/overweight permits and the routing of such permitted vehicles. The passage of **SB 300** will benefit both the State and the motor carriers industry through increased service levels in the permitting process (Attachment 3).

Written testimony of a neutral position was submitted by:

Martha Neu Smith, Executive Director, Kansas Manufactured Housing Association (Attachment 4)

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 300** was closed.

The Chairman indicated if there is no opposition he would like to work the bill today. The committee agreed.

Senator Brownlee moved, Senator Petersen seconded, to recommend **SB 300** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger opened the hearing on **SB 302 - Kansas intermodal transportation revolving fund; financing intermodal transportation projects.**

Bruce Burditt, Chief of the Office of Financial and Investment Management for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), provided testimony in favor of **SB 302**. According to Chief Burditt, the bill would authorize the Secretary of KDOT to create the Kansas Intermodal Transportation Revolving Fund to provide assistance to governmental units for intermodal transportation projects. KDOT would have the responsibility for administration and management of this fund (Attachment 5).

Pat Hubbell, spoke on behalf of BNSF Railroad, about the planned Kansas City / Gardner Intermodal Facility and it's economic impact on Kansas. He indicated that BNSF is working with KDOT and Johnson County on the location of road and highway improvements needed to accommodate the increased traffic load to the City of Gardner. Favorable passage of **SB 302** will facilitate the funding assistance needed (Attachment 6).

Don Jarrett, Chief Legal Counsel for Johnson County appeared on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners in support of **SB 302**. Mr. Jarrett stated that the City of Gardner does not have the ready ability to finance all of the needed public improvements, and the County cannot bear those costs either. Financial assistance from the State is both appropriate - since the State will benefit substantially from the Intermodal and has previously helped finance infrastructure for other economic development projects in other areas (Attachment 7).

Paul Degener, appeared as a United States citizen in opposition to **SB 302**. He stated he is opposed to anything that has to do with the North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the NAFTA Super Highway (Attachment 8).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 302** was closed.

Discussion followed. The Chairman indicated if there was no objection, he would like to work the bill today.

Senator Brownlee moved, Senator Donovan seconded, to recommend **SB 302** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2009.