

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 2, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Pat Maloney, Representative, State of Kansas
Rocky Fund, Representative, State of Kansas
Kassidy Dahl, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Jayme Burger, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Patrick Broxterman, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Brooke Slayton, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Sandra Solis, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
MaRyka Smith, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Jaycee Worrell, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School
Tayler Klobnak, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2555 - Designating parts of K-14, U.S. 160 and K-2 as the SFC David R. Berry/SGT WillSun M. Mock memorial highway.** Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Pat Maloney, Representative, State of Kansas, appeared in support of **HB 2555**. He stated that these men were born and raised in Harper County. They both died when a makeshift bomb detonated near their vehicles in or near Baghdad, Iraq. The memorializing of this section of Kansas Highway 14, in the middle of Harper County, is a fitting tribute to these local soldiers who died defending America and Americans (Attachment 1).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2555** was closed.

Chairman Umbarger called for action on the bill. Senator Donovan moved, Senator Petersen seconded, to recommend **HB 2555** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2650 - Designating part of U.S. 75 highway as the James Lane Freedom Trail memorial highway.** Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Rocky Fund, Representative, State of Kansas, testified as a proponent of **HB 2650**, stating that this bill is brought on behalf of seventh grade history students who wish to designate a portion of Highway 75 as the James Lane Freedom Trail Memorial Highway. He spoke about James Lane's political career and how he was a dominant force in Kansas and to an extent national politics for a decade. The sign's initial cost, and an additional 50% for future maintenance or replacement, will be paid for through gifts and donations (Attachment 2).

Kassidy Dahl, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, appeared in support of **HB 2650**. She indicated that James Lane was a supporter of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which gave Kansans' the right to vote whether Kansas should be a "Free" or "Slave" state. He brought many Free-Staters from the north, through Iowa and Nebraska, to Kansas using the trail he popularized (Attachment 3).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 2, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Jayme Burger, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, spoke in favor of **HB 2650**, stating that the trail does not just honor James Lane, it also honors the people who fought to make Kansas a free state ([Attachment 4](#)).

Patrick Broxterman, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, testified as a proponent of **HB 2650**. He noted that through research, the students found the portion of Highway 75 from north of 46th street and Highway 75 interchange to just south of the Holton city limits, was the closest match to the James Lane Trail. By designating this portion of Highway 75 as the James Lane Freedom Trail Memorial Highway, those people traveling through would know they were on an historic trail ([Attachment 5](#)).

Brooke Slayton, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School testified in favor of **HB 2650**, stating that Lane escorted the first group of Free-State settlers to Kansas by using the trail to bypass pro-slavery strong holds in Missouri ([Attachment 6](#)).

Sandra Solis, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, appearing in support of **HB 2650**, indicated that as early as 1856, the trail was being used as a route on the Underground Railroad, which was an important route for people to get escaped slaves from southern states to northern states ([Attachment 7](#)).

MaRyka Smith, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, spoke as a proponent of the bill. She stated that the students started their work on **HB 2650** by studying Bleeding Kansas, learned about the legislative process, how to research and write their bill and sent letters to the Governor and local legislators ([Attachment 8](#)).

Jaycee Worrell, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, testified in support of **HB 2650**, noting that they chose the word "Freedom" for the sign because James Lane helped make Kansas a free state and he used the trail as an underground railroad route ([Attachment 9](#)).

Taylor Klobnak, 7th Grade History Student, Royal Valley Middle School, appeared as a proponent, indicating many famous people traveled the "James Lane Trail," such as John Brown, the Sage family, Anne Clark and our first governor, Charles Robinson. She concluded by asking to please remember these famous people who utilized the trail and vote to pass **HB 2650** ([Attachment 10](#)).

The Chairman requested comments from the student's teacher, Nathan McAlister. He said that the students worked countless hours, and have integrated this project into their Kansas government class.

Written testimony in support of **HB 2650** was submitted by:
Dennis Pyle, Senator, State of Kansas ([Attachment 11](#))

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2650** was closed.

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

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Donovan seconded, to recommend **HB 2650** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2010.