

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on January 30, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Jackson
 Senator Pugh

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
 Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mike Armour, KDOT
 Scott Moore, Ellsworth, KS
 Mary Gilmore, Morton Co., KS
 Cheri R. Piene, Oswego, KS

Others attending: See attached list

Briefing on Aviation component of 2000 Comprehensive Transportation Program (CPT)

Chairman Donovan welcomed Mike Armour, Director of Division of Aviation for the Kansas Department of Transportation. Mr. Armour reported on the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) which has been instituted as a part of the 2000 CTP. This is the first time funding has been earmarked specifically for airports and a majority of Kansas public use airports (those boarding fewer than 10,000 passengers per year) need assistance. Mr. Armour stated they are very pleased that the initial phase of KAIP is exceeding expectations both in sponsor participation and in improvements. He explained the principles of, and provided a graphic presentation on, the program (Attachment 1). Most of the places who have invested money in an airport do have a community hospital and it is extremely important for air ambulances to be able to get there. This is literally a lifesaving project. A recurring theme in meetings held throughout the state prior to enactment of CPT 2000 was the need for airport improvements. It is anticipated that with this program, airports will become safer for these air ambulances. Improving safety of airports in such communities is a high priority, but the communities still have to come forward with a plan and some type of funding at the local level. "In kind" services can be part of local funding mix.

Members realize there is still much to be done since this is a "catch up" program following years of no funding for airports. They commended Mr. Armour on his Division's accomplishments.

Scott Moore, City Administrator, Ellsworth, KS (Attachment 2); Mary Gilmore, County Clerk, Morton County, KS (Attachment 3); and Cheri R. Piene, City Clerk, Oswego, KS (Attachment 4) all presented testimony regarding their positive experiences with the KAIP. They stressed improved safety and economic development resulting from the airport improvements. An example of the local level "in kind" contribution was the Morton County Road Department's literal construction of the runway. That was the majority of the local money on this project.

Some communities have returned with requests for additional improvements. Grants are provided according to a rating system that was developed with assistance from the field of construction in addition to the field of aviation as well as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA does put money into Kansas and if they are going to spend money on a requested project then Kansas money is spent elsewhere.

Approval of minutes

Senator Salmans moved to approve minutes of the January 25, 2001 meeting. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2001.

CONTINUATION SHEET