

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley-excused

Senator Les Donovan-excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Toni Beck, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger opened the meeting stating that he appreciated the responsible, positive robust leadership Deb Miller has provided to the department since 2003. Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation, presented a Transportation Budget Review to the committee on file with the Department of Transportation. (Attachment 1) The presentation detailed the 1.4 billion transfer that creates lack of funding by bonding indebtedness. The better model with Tworks economic impact insures wise spending of revenue funds from her department.

Kansas has two million licensed drivers and two million licensed vehicles across the Kansas highways. In addition, there are 2,200 employees across the state in the transportation department, with 140,000 miles of public roads. Spending is allocated per mileage usage through transportation funding. For the first time the department now funds an aviation program as well, per Deb Miller.

Senator Kultala commented on the concern over spending in the Leavenworth area that is percentage based. She inquired as to how many positions are still unfilled? The response was 197 had been eliminated. Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary commented that the budget is very conservative at the beginning of the fiscal year due to the nature of the weather issues. As the winter wears on, they are better able to see available funds for adjustments to the budget.

Senator Schmidt thanked the secretary for staying in her current position. She inquired as to the technology division that was not included in the presentation. The travelers service has been a great asset in the area. The camera viewing on I-70 corridor for road conditions will be expanded, per Deb Miller.

Senator Reitz commented that the Manhattan presentation was greatly appreciated with attention to detail. Senator Marshall inquired as to how many of the 2 million plus drivers were insured. Jill Shelley, KLRD, responded 9.8% with an increase to 11.8% due to current unemployment rates. Secretary compared the number to inflation over the ten year period is \$450 million original, down to 420 million current, and the savings on lower bid estimates will assist in balancing the budget.

Senator Huntington commented in reference to the task force in place for the department. Jill Shelley, KLRD, responded recommendations are for consideration based on, real time, data based, and insurance based. There is no system decided on at this moment while further details are being considered.

Senator Kultala made a motion to move to the full Senate the confirmation for re-appointment of Deb Miller, to Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation; to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Senator Roger Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger asked the committee if there is any interest in pursuing uninsured motorist issues. Senator Schmidt commented no, unless there was a positive plan to deal with the problem. Senator Schmidt suggested the new Secretary of Revenue could be assistance for other suggestions. Chairman will follow up for the historic details of the issue and plan an informational meeting in reference to the information obtained.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2011.