

Approved: February 1, 2012

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(Date)

## **MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 8:33 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Anthony Hensley - excused

Committee staff present:

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jane Wentz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer, Kansas  
Department of Transportation

Bob Totten, Kansas Contractors Association

Whitney Damron, Kansas Good Roads, Inc. (written testimony only), proponent

William Brady, Economic Lifelines (written testimony only), proponent

Shelby Smith, Wichita, Kansas

Dennis Slimmer, Chief of Transportation Planning, Kansas Department of  
Transportation

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Possible bill introduction

AN ACT waiving commercial driver's license driving skills testing for applicants with recent military experience operating commercial motor vehicles; etc.

At the request of the Chairperson, Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a brief summary. Senator Kultala made a motion to introduce the bill as written. Senator Huntington seconded the motion and the motion carried on a voice vote.

### Briefing on:

#### Passenger rail

Dennis Slimmer, Chief of Transportation Planning, Kansas Department of Transportation updated the Committee on the service development plan study that was completed in November 2011 (Attachment 1). Issues needing to be resolved before expansion of passenger rail service could take place includes: funding, legislative commitment, and scheduling/determining service areas. The service development plan's findings were based upon use of existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway freight tracks. Senator Donovan asked whether any of the start-up costs could be funded by federal monies. It was stated that up to 80 percent could potentially be received. Answers to other Committee questions included: the benefit-cost ratio in the report does not include potential additional economic development, double-tracking will be needed in some areas, and the state of Missouri subsidizes passenger rail with approximately \$8.5 million a year.

Shelby Smith, Wichita, Kansas, also voiced his support of expanding the passenger-rail service in Kansas (Attachment 2).

### Hearing on:

**SR 1803 –A RESOLUTION urging congress to amend the Federal Highway Beautification Act to allow businesses in small towns across Kansas to advertise with outdoor highway advertising signs.**

At the request of the Chairperson, Mr. Yoza provided a brief summary. Mr. Yoza stated the Committee had heard testimony in 2011 when a hearing was held on **SB 151–**

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**Highway advertising; permitting spot zoning.** *Senator Reitz made a motion to accept the resolution as written and Senator Kultala seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.*

**SR 1804— A RESOLUTION concerning transportation; requesting a multi-year federal transportation funding program at current funding levels.**

Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer, Kansas Department of Transportation spoke in favor of **SR1804**. Mr. Younger stated that the current federal model is not sustainable (Attachment 3).

Bob Totten, Kansas Contractors Association, spoke in support of **SR1804** (Attachment 4).

Whitney Damron, representing Kansas good Roads, Inc. (Attachment 5), and William Brady, representing Economic Lifelines (Attachment 6), provided written testimony encouraging Congress to enact a long-term federal transportation plan.

*Senator Reitz made a motion to accept **SR1804** as written and Senator Schmidt seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2012.

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