

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 2011, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Marvin Kleeb

Others attending.

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the meeting. He announced to the committee members that the trip, discussed at the last meeting, to the Johnson County Community College would be on Tuesday, March 8th.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2034**.

HB 2034 – Raising speed limit on certain roadways to 75 mph.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Representative Marvin Kleeb. Representative Kleeb gave a brief background on the speed limit laws. According to Representative Kleeb, (Attachment #1) 14 states have set speed limits on rural areas of four-lane highways at 75-80 mph, and none of the states have lowered their statewide maximum speed limit. He referred to multiple studies. One indicated there is no conclusive evidence linking higher speed limits to an increase in motor vehicle accidents and another study indicating there has been a decreasing trend of fatalities for the past 14 years in those states that have implemented a 75 mph speed limit.

Representative Kleeb said there were also economic development possibilities made more attractive by the ability to drive at a higher speeds across through the state for both vacationers and freight. He also said that KDOT would retain the right to lower speed limits in urban areas at their discretion. In conclusion Representative Kleeb said Kansas is the only western state with maximum speed limits of 70 miles per hour and the Kansas highway system and our vehicles are modern, safe and in excellent shape.

There were no other proponents nor opponents signed up to testify or who came forward when invited. After all questions were answered the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2034**.

It was the Chairman's desire to work **HB 2033** and when asked, the committee had no objections. Chairman Hayzlett opened the bill to the committee for questions, comments or motions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Representative Swanson made a motion to favorably pass this bill from committee, seconded by Representative Grant and the motion carried.

There being no further business before the committee the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, in Room 783, DSOB.