

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Hazylett at 1:40 p.m. on January 30, 2001 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor
Hank Avila, Research
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Thomas Day, Kansas Corporation Commission
Mike Armour, Director of Aviation for Kansas Department of Transportation
Mary Gilmore, County Clerk, Morton County
Scott Moore, City Administrator, Ellsworth
Cheri Peine, City Clerk, City of Oswego

Others attending:

See attached sheet

Minutes for the Transportation Committee for January 10th, January 23rd and January 24th were presented for approval or corrections. Representative Phelps made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This was seconded by Representative Levinson and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett called for bill introductions. Thomas Day, Kansas Corporation Commission requested introduction of two bills. The first would delete reference to the Interstate Commerce Commission, which was abolished, update USC codes, updates to hazardous materials and deleting registrations duplications. The second would define household goods, clarify reference to the interstate commerce commission, and redefine private motor carrier. Representative Vickery made a motion to introduce this legislation, seconded by Representative Humerickhouse and the motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Representative Vickery requested introduction of a bill which would require drivers to drive with their headlights on at all times. This was seconded by Representative Osborne and the motion carried.

Representative McKinney made a motion to introduce a bill which would reinstate in the Comprehensive Transportation legislation that the county share for federal aid projects not exceed 10%.

Representative Dreher made a motion to introduce a bill to place a decal on the veteran license plate which would designate the branch of the service being honored by the plate. This was seconded by Representative Levinson and the motion carried. Representative Loganbill wished her "no" vote recorded.

The Chair called on Mike Armour, Director of Aviation for the Kansas Department of Transportation, to give a briefing on the Aviation Component of the Comprehensive Highway Plan. He told the committee that the KAIP had exceeded the expectations in both sponsor participation and improvements and attached an outline to briefly review the program's principles. He also showed a video to graphically display the early results of the program. (Attachment 2)

Scott Moore, City Administrator for the City of Ellsworth, stated that the funds provided for the aviation portion of the Comprehensive Transportation Program had allowed their airport to have life-watch services that are utilized by

terminally ill individuals from their community as well as individuals involved in major accidents off the interstate. He continued that without the necessary improvements to the airport they could

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have been faced with an increasing number of life threatening situations, which rural communities often encounter due to their proximity to area medical facilities and adequate airports. (Attachment 3)

Mary Gilmore, Morton County, said the Morton County Airport is a lifeline in many ways. Because of the geographical location, they experience a high rate of transfers by air ambulance to Wichita and other large city hospitals. It also allows specialty physicians to fly into Elkhart on a weekly basis to serve patients of the Morton County Health System and provide a higher quality of life. She continued oil and gas companies fly into Elkhart to access and research public records in an attempt to locate additional minerals in Morton County and also the airport is utilized by local business people who fly to Amarillo, Wichita and Colorado to complete business transactions. She concluded that the Kansas Department of Transportation and Morton County make a great team and they are proud of the improvements made to their airport. (Attachment 4)

The City Clerk of the City of Oswego, Cheri Peine, spoke next to the committee. She said with the help of the KDOT airport improvement program, they were finally able to complete an overlay of the existing runway. Since this project has taken place the usage has increased at the airport and they have had to turn people away who wished to house their aircraft there. She stated that as a small, rural community with little resources, they felt very privileged to be one of the first communities to participate in the program and already have experienced a positive outcome since the overlay project was completed. (Statement 5)

Chairman Hayzlett then opened the floor for questions by the committee.

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. The committee will unofficially tour the Motor Vehicle Department on Wednesday, January 31st. The next scheduled meeting of the House Transportation Committee will be Thursday, February 1, 2001.