

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 11, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Bob Lyon

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Deb Miller, Secretary, KS Department of Transportation

Others attending: See attached list

Confirmation hearing

Governor Sebelius recommended Deb Miller for Secretary of the Department of Transportation. Ms. Miller appeared before the Senate Transportation Committee for her confirmation hearing. She provided personal history information, including the fact that she is a Kansan - born in Scott City, lived in Mead and Pratt. Her father was a civil engineer, worked for the highway commission and worked in Pratt for a number of years. She also talked about her previous relationship with the Kansas Department of Transportation where she was employed at different times, as well as working with them in her private sector employment. Because of her previous experience with the Department she is familiar with the Legislative process and is uniquely qualified to "hit the ground running." At the present stage of the Comprehensive Transportation Program and current financial pressures, that is vitally important. She talked about her management style, and work philosophy. She emphasized that she believes strongly in developing strong work relationships and that the Department is here to work for the people of Kansas. She sees the Department as a very strong organization with a good solid professional approach to accomplishing its mission. One of her goals is to try to be more open to community concerns and to restore the credibility of the Department with local communities. There apparently have been unresolved issues with some transportation groups and some communities have a very bad attitude toward KDOT. She believes the Department needs to look at how they deal with local governments. Another goal is to try to develop a financing package to minimize the need for general transfer funds.

Several members of the Committee stated they have conducted some personal research regarding Ms. Miller's qualifications for this position and reported that without exception everyone had great respect for her honesty and openness as well as her competency. They consider the State to be very fortunate to have a candidate of Ms. Miller's caliber for the Secretary of the Department of Transportation

Senator Jackson moved to recommend to the full Senate, that Deb Miller's appointment as Secretary of the Department of Transportation be confirmed. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2003