

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on January 10, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris- excused

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor Emeritus
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Mike Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, who presented an update on the agency's fees, projects and legislative initiatives (Attachment 1). Secretary Hayden mentioned that he was confident that the Governor will continue to provide continued support for the parks in her FY 2008 Governor's Budget Recommendations and urged the Committee's support.

Secretary Hayden explained that in the 2006 Legislative Session the Legislature provided adequate State General Fund appropriations to reduce the vehicle permit fee for state parks by 50 percent for calendar year 2007. He noted that the department reduced the regulatory established vehicle permit fee by half effective January 1, 2007. Details are noted in his written testimony that due to statutory and contractual obligations, the department was not able to reduce the fees for obtaining the reduced permit by 50 percent. The Secretary also provided an update on the Capital Improvement projects requested by the department and the Department Task Force on Deer Management.

The Chairman welcomed Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation, who presented an overview of the agency (Attachment 2). Secretary Miller also provided the following information to the Committee:

- Candidate Projects for Construction After FY 2009 (Attachment 3).
- Completing the CTP: Remaining Projects 2007-09, Kansas Department of Transportation (Attachment 4).

Secretary Miller provided information about the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate and the Re-enactment of the 1919 Transcontinental Convoy. She mentioned that 2007 is year eight of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and that they were making good progress. Secretary Miller addressed emerging challenges such as limited revenues and rising costs, congestion, and economic competition. She explained that the Kansas Department of Transportation initiated a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in response to these challenges which will be completed in three phases. The details of the LRTP are listed in Secretary Miller's written testimony.

The Secretary explained that the Kansas Department of Transportation formed a Driving Force Task Force

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last year which involved statewide meetings and input. She noted that the recommendations of the task force will be released on January 16, 2007, which are pursuing legislation on primary seat belts and graduated drivers licenses.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2007.