

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 6:15 p.m. on March 16, 2010, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Les Donovan- excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Rick Worrel, President, Affinis Corporation

Howard Partington, City Administrator, Great Bend, Kansas

Beth Felski, Olathe Chamber of Commerce

Jennifer Bruning, Vice President of Government Affairs, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the continued hearings on **SB 498 - Transportation works for Kansas program, financing** and **SB 515 - Transportation works for Kansas, financing, sales tax on motor-vehicle fuels.**

Rick Worrel, President, Affinis Corporation, appeared in favor of a new comprehensive transportation plan. Mr. Worrel noted that he is the owner of a small, local engineering firm whose primary expertise is highway and roadway design for cities, counties and state departments of transportation. He stated that the current economic conditions and the lack of transportation funding have had a drastic effect on his 10-year-old company. Without a new transportation program now, the consequences to Affinis will be continued job loss including loss of valuable technical expertise (Attachment 1).

Howard Partington, City Administrator of Great Bend, Kansas spoke in support of a new transportation program, stating the need for a program that values local consultation and provides for a flexible project selection format. He provided the following thoughts on why a new program is vital to our state:

- Help the Kansas economy - Jobs in local communities
- Local consultation and regional approach
- Communities benefit from KDOT's different programs - air, public transit, rail, bike trails
- Funding to city and county programs besides the larger enhancements
- KDOT's planning for a new program has been impressive - T-LINK recommendations

Mr. Partington concluded that the impact on cities and counties will be immense if a new program is not funded and now is the time to act on a new transportation program. There is widespread support for a new program, and funding a program is vital to Kansas (Attachment 2).

Vice Chairman Marshall assumed Chair of the meeting.

Beth Felski, Olathe Chamber of Commerce, testified as a proponent of **SB 498** and **SB 515**. According to Ms. Felski, commercial investment and job creation in Kansas have been, and continue to be, directly linked to infrastructure investment in Kansas. Explosive growth is anticipated in the K-10 corridor, assuming that adequate infrastructure exists to serve it. Olathe is faced with pressing needs to build interchanges and overpasses along the K-10, I-435, and I-35 corridor. They will bring new construction and new jobs to the state and address traffic and safety issues. She concluded stating that the Olathe Chamber asks for support of the Transportation Works for Kansas program. It would provide for the construction, improvement, reconstruction, and maintenance of the State Highway System, which is vital to the future economic growth in Kansas. Continued investment in the state's transportation infrastructure is essential to the well-being of Kansas and its citizens (Attachment 3).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 6:15 p.m. on March 16, 2010, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

Jennifer Bruning, Vice President of Government Affairs with the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, appeared in support of a new comprehensive transportation plan. She stated that Kansas' transportation systems are the foundation for the efficient movement of people and goods, and they are crucial for economic development, business retention and expansion, and job creation throughout the entire state. Overland Park's highest transportation priority is the completion of the improvement and widening of US-69 from I-435 to 167th Street and the improvement and widening of I-435 from I-35 to US-69. The Chamber supports many elements of the T-WORKS Program including the following:

- Flexibility to alter or adjust projects based on transportation needs, allowing communities to capture emerging economic opportunities
- Requiring economic analysis in addition to local consultation and engineering factors
- Bonding - added flexibility of "debt service to revenue" restriction as long as debt service expense does not to exceed 18% of the agency's annual revenues
- Build America Bonds - extend KDOT's 20 year debt issuance restriction to 25 years
- Tolling - adding a pilot project to assist the start-up of larger transportation projects

Ms. Bruning concluded her testimony stating that a high quality transportation system is of utmost importance to the Overland Park business community and they encourage passage of a new transportation program this year ([Attachment 4](#)).

Vice Chairman Marshall announced the hearings on **SB 498** and **SB 515** would continue at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010.