

Approved: March 21, 2012

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Willie Prescott at 1:30 p.m., on February 14, 2012, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except Chairman Hayzlett

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Tom Holland
Representative Eber Phelps
Representative Trent LeDoux
Derrick Barger, Royal Valley High School Student
Nicholas Ehrhart, Royal Valley High School Student
Garrett Schultz, Royal Valley High School Student
Weston Hasty, Royal Valley High School Student
Jarrett Roy, Royal Valley High School Student
Jenna Thurman, Royal Valley High School Student
Jacob Hastings, Royal Valley High School Student
Jerry Younger, KDOT, Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transp. Engineer
Captain Rusty Leeds, Wichita Police Department
Tom Whitaker, Executive Director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association

Others attending

See attached list.

Vice Chairman Prescott called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Hayzlett. He opened the hearing on **HB 2612**.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee on February 14, 2012 in Room 783, DSOB

HB 2612 – Barnes brothers memorial highway

The Vice Chairman recognized Representative Trent LeDoux as the first proponent for this bill. He said this bill designates a portion of K-79 highway in Jackson County as the Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway. He introduced the students from Royal Valley High School. (Attachment #1)

Derrick Barger was the next proponent. He said the purpose of this project was to honor these two great baseball players and citizens. (Attachment #2)

Nick Ehrhart was the next student to speak. Mr. Ehrhart said Jesse Barnes started his baseball career in 1915 and it ended in 1927, playing in the 1921 World Series and the 1923 World Series. (Attachment #3)

Garrett Lee Schultz was the next speaker. (Attachment #4) He discussed Virgil Barnes, born in 1897 and grew up near Circleville, KS. According to Mr. Schultz, Virgil played in approximately 205 professional baseball games, including the 1923 World Series against his brother Jesse.

The next proponent was Weston Lee Hasty. (Attachment #5) He said both brothers were inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Hasty told the Committee that Virgil went to war in the middle of his baseball career and Jesse enlisted but due to illness could not go.

Jarrett Logan Roy spoke next. (Attachment #6) According to Mr. Roy, Jesse Barnes was inducted into the Army in 1918. He was assigned to Camp Funston in Fort Riley for temporary training. In 1919 Jesse Barnes contracted influenza and was eventually discharged from the Army due to this illness.

The next speaker was Jenna Rose Thurman. (Attachment #7) Ms. Thurman talked about Virgil Barnes art career after he left baseball. In the 1930s Virgil painted murals in the Holton public schools. He also helped teach art in Holton. She said Virgil Barnes painted murals in the Jackson County Court House on the walls of the courtroom and later he opened a portrait art studio.

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The last proponent on **HB 2612** was Jacob Conner Hastings. Mr. Hastings talked about Virgil Barnes time in the service and how as a communications runner he literally wore out his boots which contributed to frostbite on his feet. Private Barnes was also exposed to gas during the offensive and was hospitalized. He received the Wound Chevron which is the equivalent to the Purple Heart. (Attachment #8)

The Committee asked the students' teacher to step to the podium and introduce himself. Nathan McAlister came forward and answered some questions from the Committee. At the conclusion Representative LeDoux came forward again to ask the Committee to pass this bill out favorably.

There being no other proponents and no opponents, Vice Chairman Prescott closed the hearing on **HB 2612**.

Representative Swanson asked if they could work the bill while the students were present so without objection from the Committee, Vice Chairman Prescott opened **HB 2612** for comments, questions or motions. *Representative Swanson moved to pass **HB 2612** favorable for passage, seconded by Representative Hildebrand and the motion carried.*

The Vice Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2614**.

HB 2614 – Designating the Jct. Between I-70 and US 183 as the CW2 Bryan J. Nichols fallen veterans memorial interchange

Vice Chairman Prescott recognized Representative Phelps who briefed the Committee on the bill. According to Representative Phelps, (Attachment #9) Bryan Nichols was a native of Hays, Kansas, and had done several tours in the combat zone in both Iraq and in Afghanistan as a Chinook pilot. Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2) Nichols was credited with saving several lives during his tour. Representative Phelps pointed out that the sign has CWO2 Nichol's name on it but it also honors all Fallen Veterans and has national significance.

There were no other proponents and no opponents so Vice Chairman Prescott closed the hearing on **HB 2614**.

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Vice Chairman Prescott opened the hearing on **HB 2556**.

HB 2556 – Establishing a safety corridor program

The Vice Chairman recognized Senator Tom Holland as the first proponent on this bill. According to Senator Holland he became interested in this issue as a result of a significant number of fatal crossover median crashes that have occurred along highway K-10. He believes a safety corridor program such as the one KDOT proposed would be beneficial in alerting drivers that they are entering a high accident area. (Attachment #10)

The next proponent was Jerry Younger, KDOT. According to Mr. Younger, a driver traveling through a safety corridor would be alerted that they are entering a safety corridor. He said attention would be drawn to increased enforcement and any driver stopped for a moving violation within a safety corridor zone will incur a double fine. He said designating safety corridors, increasing fines and enforcement, will encourage drivers to change their driving habits and reduce injury and fatal traffic crashes. (Attachment #11)

Captain Rusty Leeds was the next proponent. (Attachment #12) Captain Leeds said the traffic safety corridors are a common sense approach to reducing traffic fatalities, injuries and property damage. He said **HB 2556** would create a traffic safety partnership between the Kansas Department of Transportation and local Kansas communities.

Vice Chairman Prescott drew the Committee's attention to written testimony submitted in support of **HB 2556** by Representative Anthony Brown (Attachment #13); Ed Klumpp, Legislative Committee Chair of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (Attachment #14); Larry R. Baer, Assistant General Counsel, League of Kansas Municipalities (Attachment #15); and an e-mail from Mayor Scott Hopson, Eudora, KS (Attachment #16).

When Vice Chairman Prescott asked if there were any other proponents to this bill, Alison Shutt stepped forward and told the Committee how her five-year old son had been killed in a car crash along K-10 when an impaired driver crossed the median and hit their car.

The Vice Chairman recognized Tom Whitaker who was considered a Neutral with concerns. Mr. Whitaker brought up several items of concern that they would like to see addressed in this bill. He believes the changes proposed in their testimony would make better legislation. (Attachment #17)

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There were no other proponents and no opponents so after all questions had been answered, the Vice Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2556**.

The Vice Chairman opened **HB 2432 – Providing for Ducks Unlimited License Plates** for questions, comments or motions on this bill. *Representative Swanson moved to favorably pass HB 2432, seconded by Representatively Worley. The motion carried.*

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.