

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on January 30, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett called the meeting to order. He introduced Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller who made comments about the reason for the presentation on Work Zone Safety. Secretary Miller talked about accidents over the past few year that took the lives of some KDOT workers and construction workers and the need to do more to protect workers and motorists. KDOT appointed an internal committee and asked Randy West, who is a District Engineer in the Salina Office to head the committee.

Secretary Miller introduced Randy West. Mr. West then introduced Lt. Bruce Hyman, with Highway Patrol Troop C in Salina, who is also a member of the committee. Mr. West started a power-point presentation. He said their mission was to comprehensively identify changes or additions to their current work zone approach that could result in a higher degree of safety to those in the work zone. They not only looked at changes that KDOT could make but also took into consideration whether stronger state laws are needed.

Mr. West said they focused on standards or specification modifications (including spacing and height of portable channelizers, pilot car speed, and establishing similar traffic control for maintenance and construction sites), new devices (such as work zone alarm system, automated flagger, temporary rumble strips and high visibility safety apparel), education and legislation. The Work Zone Committee made the following recommendations: Double fines plus \$250.00, training, high visibility apparel, portable channelizers, temporary rumble strips, work zone alarm system, automated flaggers, speed limits and enforcement.

After the presentation Representative Swanson made a motion to increase fines as recommended by the Work Zone Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative McLachlan and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett asked Senate Transportation Chairman Donovan if he would like to make comments. Senator Donovan said he would just like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to reduce the number of fatalities across the state - including KDOT, KHP, local officials and the House Transportation Committee for their work on safety issues.

Senator Peterson also offered his thanks. He said as someone who has worked in the construction zones he is very appreciative of all the effort going into the safety issues.

Chairman Hayzlett thanked the Work Zone Safety Committee on a well done presentation and for all the effort that went into this very important issue.

The Chairman recognized Representative Ronnie Metsker who introduced his guest, a legislative shadow, Bethany Harris, from Shawnee Mission North High School.

Chairman Hayzlett drew the Committee's attention to the Minutes of the January 29, 2008 meeting Representative Ballard made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Representative Vickrey, the motion carried.

Representative Treaster made a motion to introduce a bill concerning the farm vehicle you could drive with a class C license. The motion was seconded by Representative Sloan and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be February 5, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 30, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

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