

KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Ron Gaches, Executive Director

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825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 500

Topeka, KS 66612

Phone (785) 233-4512

e-mail rgaches@gbbaks.com

Note: the opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of KSPE unless noted.

State Legislative Affairs PDH
Scheduled for Friday, March 26th

KSPE Government Relations Committee Chairman Mike Crow and I will host a one hour PDH webinar on Friday, March 26th at 10:30 a.m. to review prospects for a new Comprehensive Transportation Plan, other legislative issues, and how to effectively contact your legislators in the closing weeks of the session. All KSPE members are invited to participate in this FREE webinar.

An email will be sent to all KSPE members with information about signing up for the webinar.

Committees Advance Transportation Plans

Last Thursday evening the Senate Transportation Committee approved two different transportation funding programs. The first, put into HB 2650, contains \$2.74 billion over ten years from new bonding authority, an increase in vehicle registration fees and a sense tax increase of 3/10ths of one percent starting January 1, 2013. The second, put into HB 2510, raises over \$3 billion using new bonding, registrations fee increase, 2/10ths of one percent sales tax increase and a phased-in six cent motor fuels increase with all taxes starting January 2013. Putting the bills into House bills, an action called a “gut and go” will allow the House to vote to approve Senate amendments in either bill without going through a more time consuming conference committee process.

The bills also contain a provision that a minimum of \$5 million be spent in each county of the state and no more than 45% of the program can be spent in a single KDOT district.

At this time, both bills remain in the Senate Committee until members can review the drafting work performed by staff over the weekend. The Committee is expected to formally recommend both bills for passage early this week, but Senate leadership has indicated there will not be any consideration by the full Senate until the initial FY 2011 budget issues are resolved.

The House Transportation Committee also worked a Transportation Plan proposal last week, performing a gut and go on SB 302 and inserting a basic transportation plan with additional bonding authority as the only source of funds. The proposal also requires KDOT to spend moneys from the program as equally as possible in the six KDOT Districts.

There are two major policy conflicts to resolve before a new Transportation Plan can become law. First, there must be agreement on funding for the program. From what sources will the money come and in what amounts? These questions bring the convenience store owner/operators and fuel users to the debate, where they are joined by the “no new tax crowd” that is more broadly focused on reducing ALL taxes and holding down the growth of all government programs. Second, there must be agreement on the use of the dollars. Here we have a classic urban/rural split in the Legislature. This split used to be one of the major distinctions among legislators, but more recently it has been superseded by the growing conservative/moderate split in the GOP. Still, it reemerges when the Legislature considers the biggest expenditure program – school finance and transportation programs. Given the steady population decline in so many of our rural counties, and the overcrowding on so many of our urban highways, the distribution of dollars issue may be the more difficult to solve.

If you have not already done so, please contact your state representative and senate this week and urge them to enact a new transportation plan. A phone call to their Statehouse office, or short email or letter is appropriate. Key messages are:

- A new transportation plan will ensure the future safety and efficiency of the Kansas transportation system.
- Important highway, aviation and rail system enhancements are needed to ensure Kansas communities are best positioned to recover from the current recession when the economy starts to rebound
- A new transportation plan will put Kansans back to work and generate state and local tax revenues

To identify your legislators go to <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/redistricting.do>

To find your legislators’ Statehouse phone number, email and Statehouse address go to <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/index.do> and look at the “Hot Items” at the bottom center of the page for “House Roster” and “Senate Roster.”

Need a Copy of a Bill? Click on the “blue” bill number on the bill status list below for a copy of the current bill and supplement (if available). For copies or status of other bills, go to www.kslegislature.org and use the “Quick Search” tools on the right hand side of the page. You can **Find Your Legislator** by using the link under Hot Items at the bottom of the www.kslegislature.org home page.

2010 Bill Deadlines -

- January 11th – last day for individual bill requests
- February 1st – last day for committee bill requests, except Exempt Committees
- February 3rd – last day for individuals to introduce bills
- February 5th – last day for Committees, except Exempt Committees, to introduce bills
- February 21st – last day to consider bills in House of Origin, except “Exempt bills”
- March 24th – last day for consideration of bills in second house, except “Exempt bills”
- April 6th – anticipated end of Regular Session
- April 28th – anticipated start of Veto Session

Kansas Legislature Website - Additional resources, including copies of other bills, roster of legislators, committee rosters, a link to identify your legislator and much more can be found at ... <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Bill Updates - Following is a list of bills of interest to KSPE members. Click on the bill number for an electronic copy of the bill. Please contact me via email at ron@gachesbraden.com or phone at 785-233-2121 if you have questions or to add a bill to our tracking list. NOTE: This is the second year of the biennial session and most of the bills below are carried over from the 2009 Session.

NOTE: To reduce the size of this report we are listing the Last Action only for each bill. For a more complete history of a bill go to www.kslegislature.org.

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 59 Senate Transportation Committee	Motor vehicles; concerning the use of safety belts	In House Transportation	02/24/2009 - House Referred to Transportation
Sub for SB 301 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Land surveys; relating to monumentation of corners and recording of surveys	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	03/08/2010 - Senate Scheduled Committee Review and Possible Action: Thursday, 3/11/2010, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
H Sub for SB 302 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	On General Orders in House	03/19/2010 - House Committee Report: Substitute be passed by Transportation
SB 323 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation program; concerning the financing thereof; creating the Joint Committee on Multimodal Transportation	In Senate Transportation	03/18/2009 - Senate Referred to Transportation
SB 351	Regulating traffic; prohibiting text messaging while operating a	In House Transportation	02/24/2010 - House Referred to Transportation

Senate Ways and Means Committee	moving motor vehicle		
SB 409 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Establishing the passenger rail service program; providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of Transportation; establishing the passenger rail service revolving fund	Pending Governor's action	03/17/2010 - Senate Enrolled and presented to the Governor
SB 476 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Sales taxation; relating to imposition of tax on certain services; exemptions, repealed; fund-raising sales	In Senate Ways and Means	03/15/2010 - Senate Scheduled Continued Hearing: Tuesday, 3/16/2010, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 498 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In Senate Transportation	03/10/2010 - Senate Scheduled Continued Hearings: Monday, 3/15/2010, Adjournment, Rm 548-S; Tuesday, 3/16/2010, 8:30 AM, Rm 152-S and on Adjournment, Rm 548-S; Wednesday, 3/17/2010, 8:30 AM, Rm 152-S and on adjournment, Rm 548-S
SB 510 Senate Agriculture Committee	Water; relating to the beneficial use of water	In Senate Natural Resources	02/15/2010 - Senate Withdrawn from Ways and Means; rereferred to Natural Resources
Sub for SB 513 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Alternative project delivery building construction	Pending enrollment and presentation to Governor	03/19/2010 - House Final Action: Passed; Yeas 122, Nays 0
Sub for SB 514 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Alcoholic beverages; relating to eligibility for license for club and drinking establishments	In House Federal and State Affairs	02/23/2010 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
SB 515 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In Senate Transportation	03/10/2010 - Senate Scheduled Continued Hearings: Monday, 3/15/2010, Adjournment, Rm 548-S; Tuesday, 3/16/2010, 8:30 AM, Rm 152-S and on Adjournment, Rm 548-S; Wednesday, 3/17/2010, 8:30 AM, Rm 152-S and on adjournment, Rm 548-S
SB 526	Department of Administration;	In Senate Ways	02/04/2010 - Senate

Senate Ways and Means Committee	concerning competitive bids; preferring bids from within the state	and Means	Referred to Ways and Means
SB 531	Enacting the radon certification law	On General Orders in House	03/19/2010 - House Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Commerce and Labor
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee			
SB 544	Metropolitan Transit Authority Act; definitions	Pending enrollment and presentation to Governor	03/18/2010 - House Final Action: Passed; Yeas 99, Nays 24
Senate Ways and Means Committee			
Sub for HB 2238	Construction contracts; relating to retention in public and private construction contracts	In Senate Judiciary	02/25/2010 - Senate Referred to Judiciary
House Commerce and Labor Committee			
HB 2283	Water	Pending Governor's action	03/16/2010 - House Enrolled and presented to the Governor
House Energy and Utilities Committee			
HB 2382	Transportation; providing for a transportation program	On General Orders in House	03/20/2009 - House Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Transportation
House Taxation Committee			
Sub for HB 2403	Creating the council on efficient government	In House Appropriations	02/16/2010 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report recommending substitute bill be adopted; be amended; motion to refer to committee, adopted; rereferred to Appropriations
House Appropriations Committee			
Sub for HB 2428	Water; providing for a water data repository	On General Orders in House Above the Line in House	03/16/2010 - House Committee Report: Substitute be passed by Vision 2020
House Vision 2020 Committee			
HB 2441	Crimes and punishment; prohibiting text messaging while operating a moving motor vehicle	In House Transportation	01/14/2010 - House Referred to Transportation
House Appropriations Committee			
HB 2493	Classifications of dams and water obstructions	In House Agriculture and	02/19/2010 - House Designate Subcommittee: Wednesday,

House Appropriations Committee		Natural Resources	2/24/2010, 3:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2549 House Taxation Committee	Sales taxation; relating to exemptions, coin-operated laundry services	On General Orders in House	03/16/2010 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be further amended; discussion postponed until May 3, 2010
HB 2552 Jo Ann Pottorff, R-83rd	Enacting the midwest interstate passenger rail compact	Pending Governor's action	03/16/2010 - House Enrolled and presented to the Governor
HB 2617 House Transportation Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In House Transportation In House Taxation	02/03/2010 - House Referred separately to Transportation and Taxation
HB 2618 House Transportation Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In House Transportation In House Taxation	02/03/2010 - House Referred separately to Transportation and Taxation
HB 2680 House Appropriations Committee	Regulating traffic; concerning driving in the right lane; impeding traffic	In House Transportation	02/10/2010 - House Referred to Transportation; Scheduled Hearing: Monday, 2/15/2010, 1:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2681 House Appropriations Committee	Establishing the passenger rail service program; providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of Transportation; establishing the passenger rail service revolving fund	In House Transportation	02/10/2010 - House Referred to Transportation
HB 2690 House Appropriations Committee	Department of Administration; concerning competitive bids; preferring bids from within the state	In House General Government Budget	02/12/2010 - House Referred to General Government Budget