

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2561

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2561 would allow the Secretary of Transportation to authorize transit buses to be operated on the right shoulders of highways in the state highway system in Johnson County. Transit buses would be allowed to be operated on the highway shoulder only if traffic speed on the highway is less than 35 miles per hour. The transit bus could not exceed traffic speed by more than 10 miles per hour and would be required to yield to merging, entering, and exiting traffic and to other vehicles on the shoulder. The bill would authorize the Secretary to promulgate rules and regulations, on topics including required signage, to implement the bill's provisions.

The bill also would authorize a transit bus being operated in accordance with the bill's other provisions to pass another vehicle on the right.

The bill would require the Secretary and a representative of Johnson County to report to the Legislature annually on the program.

Background

Representative Ron Worley testified in favor of the bill, as did representatives of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Johnson County Transportation Department. They stated that such a program could reduce congestion on the state's busiest sections of highway, by reducing travel time

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

for transit buses and thereby encouraging more people to use transit. A KDOT representative also stated that highway shoulders would be evaluated to ensure that such usage would not cause them to deteriorate. KDOT and transit representatives said they expected to precede actual operation of buses on shoulders with public education on such allowed operation.

The House Committee on Transportation amended the bill to change the speed by which a transit bus on a shoulder may exceed the general traffic speed, to include rule and regulation authority, and to make a technical amendment.

The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the bill to limit bus on shoulder operation to Johnson County and to require annual reports on the program.

According to the fiscal note, KDOT states it would need to develop a signing scheme for each authorized route that would inform highway users that a transit bus could operate on the shoulder at that location. KDOT indicates that a 17-mile corridor on I-35 in Johnson and Wyandotte counties has been proposed for bus-on-shoulder operations, and that a total of \$150,090 would be needed for signage and shoulder pavement markings for FY 2011. This would require an increase in the expenditure limitation to KDOT's State Highway Fund agency operations account. The effect of the Senate amendments to the bill on the amount required for signage and shoulder pavement markings was unknown at the time of Committee action.