

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2471

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2471 would designate as the Deputy Sam Smith Memorial Highway a portion of I-35 in Franklin County, from its northern junction with US-59 South to I-35's junction with Eisenhower Road. The bill would remove this portion of I-35 from the 35th Infantry Division Memorial Highway; the remainder of I-35 would continue to be designated as the 35th Infantry Division Memorial Highway.

The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations once, pursuant to continuing law, sufficient moneys have been received from gifts and donations for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray costs for future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Schmoe.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Schmoe, the Mayor of the City of Ottawa, a former and the current Sheriff of Franklin County, and two private citizens, including the deputy's mother, provided **proponent** testimony.

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

The proponents described Deputy Smith's commitment to community service, which included serving with various programs and with the Kansas Volunteer Commission and began in his early years, and recognition for that community service, which included being the first person under the age of 18 to receive the "You Make a Difference" Award for community volunteerism and having November 19, 2001, be designated as "Sam Smith Day" in Ottawa for community accomplishments. Proponents stated Deputy Smith died in 2010 while responding to a call for assistance.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Chief of Police for the Ottawa Police Department, a corporal of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the county attorney of Franklin County, and representatives from the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and Kansas Sheriffs Association.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) estimates that it would cost \$10,360 to manufacture and install two signs for the highway and \$5,180 in gifts and donations received by KDOT prior to sign installation. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$10,360 to expenditure limitation for the agency operations in FY 2027. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Deputy Sam Smith Memorial Highway; memorial highway; sheriff deputy; Franklin County; I-35