

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING SENATE BILL 245 - REPEAL OF K.S.A 68-1111
REQUIRING REVIEW OF COUNTY BRIDGE PLANS BY KDOT**

March 12, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Ron Seitz, Chief of the Bureau of Local Projects for the Kansas Department of Transportation. I am testifying on behalf of KDOT today in support of Senate Bill 245. The proposed bill will repeal K.S.A. 68-1111.

K.S.A. 68-1111 requires plans for the construction and repair of county bridges and culverts exceeding a cost of \$200,000 be submitted to KDOT's state transportation engineer for approval. The statute further requires that if the state transportation engineer makes modifications to the plans, the county must follow the modified plans. The statute was originally enacted in 1917 and has been amended six times, with the last amendment occurring 28 years ago. The majority of those amendments were to increase the dollar amount of the cost that would require approval by the state.

The statute was originally enacted in 1917 when licensed engineers were not available to design county bridges. Today, counties have their own licensed engineers on staff or hire consulting engineering firms to design their bridges. Last summer, the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) submitted a suggestion to the Office of Repealer to consider whether this statute continued to be necessary or relevant. KDOT staff reviewed the suggestion by the KAC and agreed that review of county bridge designs by the state transportation engineer is no longer necessary. Accordingly, KDOT supports the repeal of K.S.A. 68-1111.

I will be happy to answer any questions the committee has at this time.