



Kansas Public Transit ASSOCIATION

To: House Taxation Committee

From: R.E. "Tuck" Duncan
Kansas Public Transit Association

Re: HB2747

The Kansas Public Transit Association appears in opposition to that part of HB2747 that would withhold the transfer of the sales tax with a future promise to repay funds to the Kansas Department of Transportation. As part of T-Works, public transit relies on a portion of those funds to meet the needs of urban and rural transit throughout Kansas.

Public transportation is an important part of the Kansas' entire transportation system. Kansas' investment in public transportation services improves the quality of life both urban and rural communities. Employees, students, people with disabilities and single parents caring for children use public transit to commute to work, go shopping, attend school, go to medical appointments and travel to recreational activities.

Public transportation is important to our urban areas, but is not just for Kansas' urban areas. It provides an essential link for Kansans living in small towns and rural areas. Many of these residents, too, have limited access to a car. Rural areas of Kansas include a growing elderly population. Without public transportation that is safe, reliable and affordable, elderly citizens would miss doctor appointments, could not attend church and would have limited social contact. Transit allows your constituents to remain in their homes.

The T-Works plan provides additional funds to enhance public transit and provide a broader range of service levels. It also implements a new formula for the distribution of these funds to urban and rural transit agencies. These funds also provide for needed state and local match for federal funds for capital assistance. A reduction in the new levels projected for 2013 could diminish the state's leverage of federal dollars.

We recognize that the goal of this legislation is to ultimately create jobs. Public Transit is a job creator in Kansas. In addition to the three major companies that manufacturer transit vehicles in Kansas (purchases funded by federal funds matched by local and state resources), new job creation is dependent on workers, particularly as gas prices rise, being able to get to the job site.

According to the American Public Transportation Association for every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$4 is generated in economic returns. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognizes that: "Strong federal highway and transit investment is an invaluable tool to create jobs." We suggest the same is true for the state.

Many worked long and hard to develop a multi-modal, appropriately funded, approach to transportation in Kansas and the sales tax is an important element in accomplishing that goal. Please do not undermine those efforts by deferring the sales tax transfers to KDOT.