

To: The Honorable Richard Carlson, Chair
Kansas House Taxation Committee

February 16, 2012

From: Richard Hayter, Chair
Transportation Committee
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Representative Carlson and members of the committee I am Richard Hayter, Chair of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2747 and to voice our concern if it is adopted.

The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce has a long history of supporting improvements to the transportation system in Kansas ranging from highways to rail and air. We believe that transportation is a key element to the economic health of Kansas.

I will share with you two of the seven positions on transportation contained in our 2012 “Legislative Policies and Positions” document. We will be happy to provide copies of the entire document if you desire.

Following my formal comments, I will conclude with some personal observations regarding the impact of transportation on our economic well being.

- **Kansas Comprehensive Transportation Program**

Background: Transportation is a key component for the economic future of Kansas. This includes all modes of transportation including highways, rail, air, mass transit, pedestrian and bikeways. The present T-WORKS program (“Transportation Works for Kansas”) was enacted in 2010. It is essential that the new program retain or increase the level of funding included in the 2010 legislation.

Position: The legislature should maintain the level of funding enacted in 2010.

- **K-18 Improvements**

Background: The Chamber has been proactive in seeking support to improve K-18 from I-70 to Manhattan since 1998. The need has become even more urgent with the expansion of the mission at Fort Riley. Improvements to the portion from I-70 to the interchange at 12th Street that serves Fort Riley are complete. The first phase of the remainder of the project from 12th street to Manhattan is nearing completion to Wildcat Creek Road west of the Manhattan Airport. Phases 2 and 3 are now under construction. Serious safety issues, Fort Riley Expansion, and commercial growth along the K-18 corridor make this project one of critical importance. In particular, phase 2 will provide an interchange near the airport entrance and alleviate a serious flooding problem east of

the airport, as well as provide much needed safety and geometric changes near Scenic Drive where recent fatalities have occurred.

Position: Fort Riley access is critical for our national defense, and safety for all highway users is essential. As a result, all levels of government should continue efforts to complete all phases of this project from 12th Street in Ogden to Davis/Miller Parkway in Manhattan.