

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE RESOLUTION 1804
RELATING TO A LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PLAN**

January 25, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation. KDOT is pleased to provide testimony in support of this resolution that urges Congress to pass multi-year transportation re-authorization legislation.

The current federal program, SAFETEA-LU (Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), was passed in August 2005 and expired September 30, 2009. Congress has since extended the program 8 times, with the latest extension expiring on March 30, 2012. The program legislation includes the authority for expenditures out of the Highway Trust Fund to the states for highway and transit projects.

The Highway Trust Fund provides the revenue to support expenditures under the SAFETEA-LU program. Ninety percent of the revenue is collected from federal excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel. The cash balance in the Highway Account of the HTF has fallen steadily and has required several transfers from the general fund to remain solvent. Current projections show that the cash balance in the Highway Account will be depleted in 2013 and the Mass Transit Account will be depleted in 2014.

This federal history is very important in understanding how federal funds can impact the delivery of the T-WORKS program. In this fiscal year, federal funds make up around 30% of the total KDOT budget, and 50% of the construction budget. KDOT currently receives approximately \$360 million in federal funding every year. The current reauthorization proposals being considered would provide KDOT between \$225 and \$380 million per year. T-WORKS is based on the assumption of receiving \$315 million per year in federal funding, and must receive at least that level to deliver the program as promised.

Federal funding is essential to delivering T-WORKS as promised. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SR 1804 and urging Congress to pass multi-year transportation re-authorization legislation. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.