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RE: Senate Resolution 1805

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SR 1805. My name is Ashley Jones-Wisner and I am Director of State Policy at Greater Kansas City LISC. Greater Kansas City LISC is a program area of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the nation's largest community development organization, dedicated to revitalizing urban core and rural neighborhoods. Currently, Greater Kansas City LISC's signature program, NeighborhoodsNOW, serves three Kansas City, Kansas Neighborhoods: Douglass-Sumner, Downtown KCK and St. Peter/Waterway.

In the neighborhoods we serve, connectivity is critical to overall neighborhood health and sustainability. Livable streets – sometimes referred to as complete streets – are roadways designed to allow for safe and convenient travel by all users, including motor vehicles, pedestrians (including those with disabilities), transit vehicles and bicyclists both along and across the corridor. By making roads more accessible for all modes of transportation, livable streets provide safe and convenient travel for persons of all ages and abilities, including children and the elderly. Livable streets encourage active living, promote good health, provide economic benefits, make neighborhoods healthier and provide safer streets.

Since safe and livable bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems are important to the economy and economic development of Kansas, we would encourage the Kansas Senate to declare support for livable streets policies and urge their adoption at the local, metropolitan, regional, state and national levels.