

# CITY OF SHAWNEE

## CITY HALL

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**To: House Taxation Committee**

**Date: February 14, 2013**

**Subject: HB 2136 – Opposing the diversion of sales tax dollars from T-WORKS**

**Written Testimony by Katie Killen, Assistant to the City Manager**

Honorable Chairman and Members of the House Taxation Committee,

The City of Shawnee values the strong transportation network in the State of Kansas. Transportation plays a vital role in connecting the greater Kansas City region's people and businesses to goods, services, and other opportunities. This connectivity is key to the region's and the state's economic activity and economic competitiveness. As such, this transportation infrastructure should be supported by fully funding the Kansas T-WORKS program as originally outlined and planned.

As part of our City's 2013 State Legislative Program adopted by our Governing Body, the City of Shawnee supports full funding of T-WORKS and opposes any legislation that seeks to diminish its funding. Therefore, the City of Shawnee opposes HB 2136 in its present form due to its language that, as we understand, dramatically alters the T-WORKS program funding by diverting the 4/10 of a cent sales tax for T-WORKS to the General Fund.

As Kansas continues to embark on measures to bring economic development and job creation to the state, transportation should not be forgotten. A strong transportation network must be maintained and be part of the plan to promote Kansas as the place to work, live and play. HB 2136 would shift the funding for this vital transportation component and therefore should be opposed.

Thank you for your consideration.