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**Written Statement of
Doug Brown, Director of Public Works
to the
House Committee on Taxation
Opposing HB 2136
February 14, 2013**

Chairman Carlson, and members of the House Committee on Taxation. This statement is presented on behalf of the City of Overland Park, Kansas concerning proposed HB 2136 which redirects the 4/10ths sales tax dedicated to T-WORKS projects in KDOT, to the State General Fund. The City of Overland Park opposes this bill.

When T-WORKS was passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2010, it was a financially constrained program focused on two priorities: (1) Maintaining the highway system in Kansas, and (2) Meeting economic development needs and opportunities. In developing the T-WORKS Program, the Kansas Department of Transportation met frequently with local elected officials, the business community and transportation staff from across the State to identify the highest priority projects which would best support economic development opportunities through prudent expansion of the highway system. It was significantly constrained, recognizing the economic conditions in 2009.

The 4/10ths cent sales tax is a critical element of the funding needed to realize the objectives of T-WORKS and to achieve the economic benefits on which it was based. This year alone, if the sales tax is diverted from T-WORKS, it will suffer a \$179M shortfall. Over the remaining 7 years of T-WORKS, over \$1.3B in critical transportation investments will not be made, costing many times that in lost economic benefits. The Program cannot withstand a 17% funding cut.

This week, Governor Brownback announced that KDOT would undertake a number of high priority transportation project designs for the State highway system. These are projects identified during the development of T-WORKS, endorsed during recent local consultation meetings across the State and then selected by KDOT as the most important State priorities. However, if the 4/10ths cent sales tax is diverted from KDOT, it is unlikely that any of these will be funded for construction in the next 10 years, at a cost of billions of dollars in lost economic benefits.

T-WORKS is the Roadmap for Kansas – to increase private sector employment, attract new businesses to Kansas, maintain our nationally recognized highway system and develop new opportunities for intermodal transportation. The City of Overland Park strongly encourages the House Committee on Transportation not to redirect the 4/10ths cent sale tax which is properly dedicated to meet the transportation needs of the businesses and citizens of the State of Kansas.

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