



**TESTIMONY**

**HB 2068**

**An Act regulating traffic; concerning bicycles; path usage.**

**Whitney Damron  
On behalf of the  
City of Topeka**

**House Transportation Committee  
February 6, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Proehl and Members of the House Transportation Committee. On behalf of the City of Topeka, I would like to express my appreciation to you for scheduling a hearing on HB 2068, which deletes the requirement for a bicyclist to utilize a usable pathway and not the roadway.

In December, the City of Topeka adopted this proposal in its 2015 legislative agenda.

The Committee will soon hear from bicycling enthusiasts and experts more familiar with the rules of the road, so to speak and the supporting reasons for making this request. However, I will make a few comments for the record.

The City of Topeka is rapidly becoming a bicycle-friendly community, as evidenced by the “share the road” markings that are found on some of our wider streets, such as Tenth Avenue running east and west along the south side of the statehouse. K.S.A. 8-1590 (d), which contains the requirement to utilize a “usable path” creates confusion for motor vehicle operators, pedestrians and bicyclists. By and large, we do not have “bike paths” in Topeka nor the State of Kansas that parallel roadways. But there may appear to be bike paths, which leads to this confusion.

For example, on Wanamaker Road from 37<sup>th</sup> Street heading north, a major renovation project was completed in the past year with ten foot sidewalks along either side. To some, these look to be bike paths. However, they are dedicated to pedestrian travel and would present a safety hazard if bicycles were to utilize these sidewalks.

With that, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I will complete my remarks and allow the Committee to hear from those more familiar with the subject of this legislation.

Thank you again for your consideration of HB 2068.

WBD