



February 5, 2015

RE: Proponent of HB 2085

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Transportation Committee I would like to thank you for allowing me to express on behalf of the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) staff our support for HB 2085.

This legislation allows the continuation of a successful formalized partnership between Kansas' two transportation entities. We feel strongly that KTA and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will continue to see success by working closely together. And most importantly the travelers of both the state toll system and the state highway system will continue to see important improvements in their overall travel experiences in Kansas through the work of our partnership.

The partnership has been a wonderful opportunity for our staff at the KTA to get to know and train alongside the KDOT professionals. We feel that this sharing of information has a profound positive impact on the way we build, maintain, and produce the great transportation system that Kansans have come to expect.

It is important for KTA and KDOT to work strategically alongside our partners to make the best decisions for all state travelers and a perfect example of this new approach is the work that we are doing together with our partners at the City of Wichita on the Kellogg/54/KTA project as well as the several stakeholder engagement efforts that we have jointly engaged in since the inception of the formalized partnership.

At the KTA we believe that the ability to work with our partners at KDOT and the surrounding communities is an important component in making the best system for those traveling in Kansas. We believe that the partnership was implemented in a way that allowed KTA to thrive and flourish while maintaining the great system that our customers have come to expect.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2085 and I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Thank you.

Steve Hewitt
Chief Executive Officer
Kansas Turnpike Authority