

DATE: March 11, 2015
TO: Chairman Proehl and House Transportation
FROM: Kansas Department of Transportation
RE: Follow-up responses from 3/10/2015 Testimony on SB72

Chairman and Committee Members:

The committee posed several questions to KDOT following the presentation given by Josh Powers, State Public Transit Manager, on March 11, 2015. The following is a summary of the questions and responses from the agency regarding bus on shoulder legislation and authority.

Q: Can you tell us how bus on shoulder authority has operated so far and can you provide us with some supplementary data?

Johnson County Transit began Bus-on-Shoulder (BoS) operations in January 2012 after several years of planning and preparation. Four routes, collectively known as *The JO Xpress*, are able to use the right shoulders of I-35 in Johnson County from approximately 95th Street to Lamar Avenue. These routes travel from Park & Ride lots in Johnson County to Downtown Kansas City, Missouri. These routes are as follows:

- *Route 661 – Olathe Xpress*
- *Route 670 – Gardner-OP Xpress*
- *Route 673 – South OP Xpress*
- *Route 678 – Shawnee Xpress*

Shoulder Use by Route:

All four *Xpress* routes continue to use the shoulders on a regular basis, according to data compiled by drivers who document their shoulder use after the trip has been completed. Table 1 shows the estimated miles travelled by each route. Buses on *Route 661* use the shoulder the most, due to this route using the entire BoS segment and having more trips. *Route 678* uses shoulder less because the route has fewer trips than the other three routes and also only operates on three of the eight miles where shoulder use is permitted.

Route	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	Total
661	273	909	1,555	2,737
670	844	988	1,269	3,101
673	188	939	705	1,832
678	43	52	339	434
Total	1,348	2,888	3,868	8,104

Use of the shoulders grew throughout FY 2012 as drivers became more familiar with shoulder operations. *Xpress* buses traveled an estimated total of 1,348 miles on the shoulders in FY 2012. This number increased to 2,888 miles in FY 2013. Data from FY 2014 show that shoulder usage continues to grow, with an estimated 3,879 miles travelled on the shoulder, a 34 percent increase from the previous year.