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**TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING SENATE BILL 72
RELATED TO ALLOWING BUSES TO DRIVE ON SHOULDERS**

February 4, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good morning. My name is Josh Powers, and I am the State Public Transportation Manager for the Kansas Department of Transportation. My testimony today will describe KDOT's support of Senate Bill 72 and will provide information about how this legislation will be implemented, should it be passed.

The Kansas Department of Transportation worked closely with Johnson County Transit to implement its "Bus on Shoulder" service in 2011 on Interstate 35 under legislation passed in 2010. KDOT continues to enthusiastically support this program. Use of JO Xpress routes has increased dramatically since the first year of operation and statistical information has demonstrated that buses that use the shoulder are able to reduce the impact of traffic congestion on travel time.¹

Senate Bill 72 proposes to add Wyandotte County to the Bus on Shoulders program to eliminate congestion in areas of I-35 beyond the Johnson County border. The addition of Wyandotte County to the program will increase the length of the Bus on Shoulders corridor from 13.4 miles to 17 miles total, and should result in further reduction in traffic congestion during commuting hours.

Passage of this legislation will provide a framework for KDOT to authorize transit providers to operate on certain sections of I-35 in Wyandotte County, similar to the program in Johnson County. As with Johnson County, KDOT will work with Wyandotte County to implement the shoulder modifications and other design changes required for the additional routes, will assist the authorized transit provider to train the Bus on Shoulder drivers, and will support the Wyandotte County program in other ways to encourage the successful implementation of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 72. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

¹ <http://www.jocogov.org/sites/default/files/documents/TRN/Newsletter2013Jan.pdf>.