

Kansas Good Roads, Inc.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Richard Proehl, Chair
And Members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Whitney Damron
On Behalf of Kansas Good Roads, Inc.

RE: HB 2775 An Act concerning roads and highways; establishing the joint legislative transportation vision task force; relating to the evaluation of the state highway fund and state highway transportation system; report to the legislature.

DATE: March 15, 2018

Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Kansas Good Roads, I am pleased to submit this testimony of support for HB 2775 that would begin the process of evaluating the State's needs for a new transportation program as we near the end of the T-WORK's ten-year program approved by the 2010 Legislature.

Kansas has a thirty-year history of enacting comprehensive transportation programs, dating back to enactments in 1989, 1999 and then the 2010 program. Long-term sustainability for transportation and infrastructure funding is critical to provide contractors with the confidence they need to invest in equipment, employees, hardware and software and all items related to performing everything from major highway reconstruction, preservation, routine maintenance and related activities, such as bridge work, mass transit investment, rain transportation and airport enhancements. Investment follows capital and when the State of Kansas reduces or eliminates transportation spending, companies are forced to seek opportunities elsewhere or reduce the size and scope of their operations or close altogether.

Past programs were developed in conjunction with statewide input from local governments, chambers of commerce, transportation groups, business interests, related transportation stakeholders and citizen input. The financial realities of today support an alternative review process and HB 2775 would fill that need with a public/private partnership charged to study our state's transportation investment and future needs. We believe public/private membership on the task force is both appropriate and critical to the success of its recommendations, as they are at the ground level, so to speak, for assessing transportation needs.

Kansas Good Roads, Inc.

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An association created to promote good roads in Kansas for all, by those who build them for people who use them.

Given the economic realities the State has faced during implementation of the T-WORKS project, it is appropriate for the task force created by this legislation review the goals of that proposal and consider how the State can continue its investment in transportation going forward in a fair and equitable manner for all citizens of our state as it has with previously-enacted plans.

On behalf of Kansas Good Roads, Inc., we thank the Committee for its consideration of our comments.

WBD