



Testimony

Unified Government Public Relations
701 N. 7th Street, Room 620
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director
913.573.5565 mtaylor@wycokck.org

STAR Bonds SB 434

Delivered March 8, 2018
Senate Commerce Committee

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City opposes SB 434 (and SB 432) because both bills will kill one of the most effective economic development tools in the country. The Kansas Speedway and Village West development in Wyandotte County is one of the most successful economic development stories the State of Kansas has ever seen. It is also one of the most sophisticated, complex, public/private partnerships undertaken anywhere in the nation.

I want to review some of the successes of the Village West STAR Bond project by the numbers:

- \$700-million. The value of annual retail sales created by the Village West STAR bond project.
- \$42-million. The state sales tax now collected annually by the State of Kansas.
- \$12-million. The local sales tax collected annually by the Unified Government.
- \$22-million. The property tax now collected in the Village West STAR Bond area.
- \$208,000. The property tax the was collected before the Village West STAR Bond project.
- 11,000. The number of new jobs created as a result of the Village West STAR Bond project.
- \$7-million. The amount of new State income taxes created by those new jobs.
- \$450-million. The amount of STAR Bonds invested in the Village West STAR Bond project.
- \$1.4-Billion. The private dollars invested as a result of the Village West STAR Bond project.
- 5. The years the successful Village West STAR Bond project paid off the bonds early.
- 10-million. The number of visitors and tourists coming to Village West annually.

Village West is home to 120 businesses, including 30 restaurants. Dozens of other businesses, from retail stores to medical offices, are located nearby the Village West area.

The STAR Bond investment in western Wyandotte County has sparked a surge in residential housing. Besides hundreds of single homes in the area because of Village West, hundreds of apartments are being built and occupied. The Village West Luxury Apartments is a \$30-million project with 306 units; the Prairie View apartments next door is a \$27-million project with 312 apartments; and the Legends Apartments will begin construction in 2018 with 250 units built on top of an expanded Legends Shopping Center parking garage. It's estimated to be a \$30-million project with 306 units.

Village West is the top tourist destination in Kansas. The Kansas Speedway now hosts two NASCAR Sprint Cup Races a year which studies show have a nearly \$200-million economic impact for the Kansas City metro. Those races are like holding two Superbowls in Kansas City.

The economic benefits and growth in the Village West area are expected to continue as the Unified Government and State of Kansas prepare to issue STAR Bonds to move the prestigious American Royal from the West Bottoms in Kansas City, Missouri, to the Village West area.

You've all heard these numbers and these successes before. But for some reason, you either don't believe them or are just opposed to creating thousands of new jobs, tens of millions in new tax revenue and billions in economic impact. SB 434 and SB 432 will ensure these kinds of economic successes never happen again. And if you believe this kind of development would happen on it's own without incentives like STAR Bonds, you are wrong.

There are so many problems and concerns with both SB 434 and SB 432, I won't take the time to detail each one, but I will gladly answer specific questions point by point of you want.

Just understand this: SB 432 and SB 434 are designed to kill STAR Bonds, which are one of the most unique and effective economic development tools ever created anywhere in the country. An economic development tool which has worked better than even its creators could have imagined.