

Date: January 24, 2018

To: Senate Ways and Means

From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Re: Support of SB 285

I want to thank Chairwoman McGinn and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities, on behalf of our member cities, to provide testimony in support of SB 285.

The League welcomes the opportunity to be part of the task force created by SB 285 to study and evaluate the condition of the 2010 Transportation Works for Kansas program. Many cities in Kansas have worked closely with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and understand the need to have a fully- and appropriately-funded transportation program in Kansas.

The recent practice of transferring funds from KDOT to support other areas of state government appears to be affecting programs such as the Federal Fund Exchange program. This year, KDOT has changed the program from the previous 90-10 match to the current 75-25 match and a city can no longer bank funds over a period of years. This is one example of how the sweeping of transportation funding has impacted cities and why it is important local governments be involved in the task force created by this bill.

The task force includes representation from all those impacted by state transportation funding. It is important all interested parties be involved in the study to be sure the resulting report reflects the true impact of past funding decisions as well as the future needs of transportation funding in this state.

Economic development opportunities for our member cities require a properly funded state transportation program. The League supports SB 285 and respectfully requests the Committee pass SB 285 out of Committee with a recommendation to the full Senate for approval.