



**House Committee on Transportation
Hearing on House Bill 2126
Hearing Date – February 13, 2019**

**Written Testimony in support of HB 2126 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By the Honorable Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan**

Good afternoon Chair Proehl, Vice Chair Thimesch and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Transportation. My name is Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan.

The City of Manhattan supports HB 2126 as written, concerning regulating the operation of electric-assisted scooters on roads and highways. The City of Manhattan and Kansas State University have been approached by multiple electric-assisted scooter (e-scooter) companies this the past year to deploy this new trend in shared transportation systems. However, current Kansas law is silent on the definition of e-scooters and a city's ability to regulate these self-propelled vehicles. Many cities across the country are experiencing the difficulties of e-scooter companies popping up in their communities, dropping hundreds or thousands of dockless e-scooters in the public-right-of-way with no warning or ability for Cities to enact regulations and educate the public of the use of e-scooters.

- Manhattan is a growing community with a diverse population, and there is a growing need for increased forms of multi-modal transportation much like many other cities in Kansas. While it is still to be determined the impact e-scooter ride-share systems can have on cities, there is an increasing interest and support from citizens to consider and discuss new modes of alternative transportation such as this.
- To ensure the safety of its residents, the City of Manhattan supports HB 2126 providing cities the ability to consider authorization and community-specific regulations of e-scooters that are unique to each city, such as use of the public-right-of-way, parking, permitted uses on streets, and zoning regulations.
- The City of Manhattan supports the HB 2126 provision to not require the registration of electric-assisted scooters with the Kansas Department of Revenue, leaving terms, rules and number of e-scooters deployed by a company to be negotiated and agreed upon by cities.

For all the reasons stated above, the City of Manhattan supports HB 2126 concerning the operation of E-Scooters and providing cities the authority to regulate this growing shared transportation system. Thank you for your time and consideration.