

Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 375 supporting FORWARD Transportation Bill.

Chairman Senator Carolyn McGinn and Vice Chairman Senator Rick Billinger and all members of Senate Ways and Means Committee.

I am Max Dibble Phillips Co Commissioner, member of Governor's Transportation Task Force as Kansas Association of Counties representative for counties under 20,000 populations. Also a member of the Transportation Vision committee for next 25 years in Transportation for State of Kansas.

It has been a very busy two years with first year traveling the state of Kansas as Transportation Task Force listening to stakeholders and tax payers for input on the next 10 year Transportation program. Over and over again we heard from constituents "Promises Made Promises Kept" concerning the uncompleted T-Works projects, due to shortage of funding. This bill commits to completing the T-Works projects in the amount of about \$435,000,000 and identifies one project that will not be completed but the funding will remain in that district for future projects.

We also heard from stakeholders and taxpayers that in many cases they are willing to accept less in the projects. A good example of this is where a 4 Lane roadway with medians was requested but they are willing to scale back the project to putting in adequate passing lanes versus the more costly 4 lane with medians. The project with passing lanes can be completed at a much lower cost of construction and statistics show that it would greatly reduce wrecks and fatalities similar to the 4 lane with medians.

The bill also addresses preservation which is so critical to maintaining our existing infrastructure. In addition to preservation the bill will add preservation plus which is a new concept that would allow the department to add shoulders, guard rail and other safety and technology improvements while completing preservation projects at those locations.

The Forward Transportation Bill will address not only roadway, bridges and interchanges, but also Aviation, Rail, Transit, Walking Trails, and Bicycle paths.

A comment made during one the Task Force meetings that referenced the need for funding of Aviations was “Put in one mile of roadway and you can go a mile, Put in a mile of runway and you can fly anywhere”

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to serve on the Task Force committee and now on the Vision 2045 advisory group. I am totally committed to encourage the passage of Senate Bill 375 to allow our Great State of Kansas to move forward with Safety as a major result of the Bill as well as to increase Economic Development in the State. All of this is dependent on the State’s income from revenue and expenses being equal. It is also imperative that the funding for Senate Bill 375 remain adequate and consistent.

I would like to thank the committee for allowing me the time to speak to the Forward Transportation Bill and with that I will stand for questions.