



To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 18 February 2020

Senator McGinn and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 800 business members of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 375.

Transportation is critical to the continued success of Overland Park, Johnson County and the State of Kansas. Over the years we have invested heavily in our transportation system and it is an asset we must protect and enhance. The FORWARD plan developed by the Kansas Department of Transportation does just that.

The development of the FORWARD plan has been years in the making and represents significant input from stakeholders throughout the state. The plan provides flexibility and accountability and sets the foundation for the transportation infrastructure work that will propel Kansas into the future. The components of the plan encompass preservation, safety and new capacity – each a critical need in our state. Additionally, the plan seeks to make the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars by:

- Allowing for regular input from communities to ensure funded projects are still important and necessary;
- Encouraging local public and private investment to supplement state resources;
- Critically balancing transportation needs with available resources and working to develop creative solutions;
- Allowing for alternative delivery processes that streamline project completion while saving taxpayer money; and,

- Creating a process that contemplates the future of transportation and incorporating future needs into current projects.

We applaud the Kansas Department of Transportation for developing a plan that is right for Kansas and for the proactive way they developed the FORWARD plan. We are especially pleased the plan recognizes the role that transportation plays in our economy and draws attention to priority corridors as they are the lifeblood of our economic system with respect to transportation.

The Overland Park Chamber urges this committee to approve SB 375.