

To: Senate Transportation Committee

From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney

Date: February 16, 2021

RE: Support for SB 116 - Written

Thank you to Chairman Petersen and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 116.

The 625 cities in Kansas range in population from 10 to 390,591. Each Kansas city is unique, and their responsibilities are varied; so too are their transportation systems and needs. One thing all cities share is the need for a consistent and dependable transportation plan at the state level. In past sessions the League supported enacting the transportation program which became the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. So too, we support the adjustments contained in SB 116, designed to ensure a consistent and dependable transportation plan for 10 years.

The transportation plan provides for credit and credit enhancements to cities and counties in meeting their responsibilities for the construction, improvement reconstruction and maintenance of the roads and bridges not on the state highway system. There are approximately 17,000 miles of city roadways in this state and more than half of local bridges are over fifty years old. The Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program provides necessary assistance to help local units of government with increasing costs of transportation maintenance and construction to deal with existing issues and emerging technology and modes of transportation essential for vibrant economic development. It also continued the apportionment of the special city and county highway fund and enables local units of government to draw on federal aid funds.

SB 116 would make the benefits of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program more accessible to local government mainly by reducing the threshold for alternate delivery projects from \$100,000,000 to \$10,000,000. The League of Kansas Municipalities is supportive of the suggested modifications to the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program. We support SB 116 and respectfully ask the committee to recommend the bill favorably to the full House for its consideration.