

To: Senate Transportation Committee

From: Erik Sartorius, Executive Director

Date: March 25, 2021

RE: Neutral Testimony for SB 305

Thank you to Chairman Petersen and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on SB 305.

Automated license plate recognition systems have become an important tool for law enforcement in a number of areas including drug trafficking, searching for stolen vehicles and other criminal investigations. We support their use by cities.

From what we have gathered, concerns were raised by KDOT regarding these cameras mounted on KDOT poles or locations and the data captured by them. This has put on hold any new cameras being mounted by cities on state highways or interstates for the time being. It is concerning to the League that a bill purportedly needed to address an issue for KDOT concerning city-owned equipment had neither KDOT nor cities at the table as legislation was contemplated.

The League is concerned this legislation has not been vetted via any legal review by a city or the League. The challenge for cities when individual departments bring forward legislation is that implications beyond that department may not be surfaced when legislation is being drafted.

In our brief contact with cities, several have noted that the concerns of KDOT could be addressed by a simple memorandum of understanding. That seems preferable to an unfunded mandate for which cities will need to be in compliance by July 1.

We would recommend this committee not move swiftly on this legislation until its impacts can be determined.