

To: Senate Transportation Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Research Associate

Date: March 12, 2022

RE: Opposition Testimony to SB 546

Thank you to Chairman Petersen and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 546.

While we are not opposed to the concept of autonomous vehicles, we do have several concerns about SB 546 as written. For example, we are concerned that Section 6(a)(1)(B) and Section 9 are vague. It is not clear what traffic laws would apply or if cities could enforce truck routes, weight limits, etc.

Further, this bill does not define the operator of a driverless vehicle, nor does this clarify who would be responsible in the event of a violation or accident. This bill is not clear if a corporate owner would be the entity issued a ticket for violation of traffic laws or if this would be a civil penalty.

In addition, New Section 2 (c) (1) requires a valid driver's license only in the event that an ADS-vehicle has a human-operator present but does not appear to apply if the vehicle is being operated remotely.

Due to our concerns, we would encourage the committee to consider amending the bill to ensure that autonomous vehicles adhere to any local traffic ordinances. As these autonomous vehicles will be allowed on any public road, and with the concerns we have raised with the bill, as written, we believe these concerns are worth further consideration if SB 546 is to be considered by the full Senate.