

RideKC

March 4, 2024

House Bill No. 2808

Dear Members of the House Federal & State Affairs Committee.

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for House Bill No. 2808 concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure of crimes causing harm to a public transportation employee and aggravated causing harm to a public transportation employee.

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority is a bi-state agency created by a compact between the States of Missouri and Kansas and approved by the United States Congress. The compact was authorized by legislation passed in both states in 1965. The compact gives the ATA responsibility for planning, construction, owning and operating passenger transportation systems and facilities within the seven-county Kansas City metropolitan area. The compact defines the ATA district as the counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte in Missouri, and Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte in Kansas. The Authority's jurisdiction is limited to these seven counties.

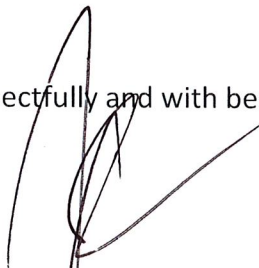
The ATA operates RideKC bus service, the MAX Bus Rapid Transit service, Flex demand-response routes, RideKC Freedom paratransit service for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and other transportation services.

While bus transit operations are limited to contracts from Kansas jurisdictions, the ATA coordinates closely with our RideKC transit communities and operators on the Kansas side.

Assaults against bus operators have escalated significantly over the last few years. As a result, the ATA has increased its security presence and works very closely with law enforcement in all jurisdictions we represent.

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority firmly supports the advancement of HB 2808 as it will provide benefit to all bus operators in the State of Kansas.

Respectfully and with best regards,



Frank White III, President & CEO
Kansas City Area Transit Authority