



February 3, 2025

City of Wichita testimony in opposition of SB 57

Submitted by Gary Janzen, Director of Public Works & Utilities for the City of Wichita

SB 57 would require certain state agencies, cities, and counties to reimburse the owner or operator of communications and video service facilities for the costs to modify or relocate such facilities for certain road and highway projects. The City of Wichita opposes the bill for the following reasons:

First, the bill diminishes overall funding for projects by diverting money intended for public improvements towards a private benefit.

Second, if enacted, this bill would entice other utilities to pursue the same type of legislation which is financially unsustainable for the City.

Third, this bill erodes the City's ability to regulate its right of way. If the City bears the responsibility for costs of all facility relocation, there is little incentive for utilities to coordinate their initial facility siting on a project. This would increase the likelihood of the City later requiring a facility to move, at its expense, to ensure space for critical infrastructure such as electricity, gas, water, drainage and sewer.

Additionally, the City of Wichita has numerous franchise agreements which include provisions whereby a franchised utility is solely responsible for the first relocation of its facilities at the request of the City. SB 57 would require modification of these franchise agreements, increasing costs to the City and reducing overall scope of public improvements.

SB 57 has significant negative impacts to the City of Wichita, including increased costs of public improvement projects. Therefore, the City of Wichita respectfully asks you to vote no on SB 57.