



American Planning Association
Kansas Chapter
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February 3, 2025

**Written Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 86 (SB86)
Kansas Senate Ways & Means Committee**

Presented by Josh White, Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association

Chairperson Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys, Ranking Member Pettey and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

As president of the Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Kansas), I would like to express our organization's support for SB86, as it would provide crucial financial resources for passenger rail extension in Kansas.

APA Kansas is a not-for profit organization which represents about 350 public and private sector planners, planning academics, students, elected officials, and citizen planners throughout the state of Kansas. Our organization's membership advocates for higher multi-modal interconnectivity in the development of transportation systems. We encourage increased state support and investments in multi-modal infrastructure. Benefits to Kansans from expansion of passenger rail services are many. We are excited about the potential of this additional investment to:

- Provide another mode of travel for our residents with increased connections from Newton KS (and stops along Southwest Chief route) to major metropolitan areas further south (Wichita, Oklahoma City, Dallas, etc.)
- Improved transportation system reliability and decreased congestion in area highways due to additional trips being taken by train instead of by car.
- Improved air quality due to increased travel by more environmentally-friendly modes.

In closing, we offer our support to expand funding for multi-modal transportation as provided by SB86.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Josh White'.

Josh White, AICP
President
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