



13 March 2019

Senator Carolyn McGinn
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Senator McGinn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 186. Members of the 2018 Transportation Task Force spent countless hours listening to citizens, elected officials, business leaders and transportation experts discuss their priorities for the future of transportation in Kansas. We believe several messages were very clear. Kansans want a high-quality transportation system and Kansans believe the state is well-served by the creation of a long-term plan prioritizing projects based on need, impact and return on investment. We couldn't agree more.

SB 186 establishes the framework for the next long-term transportation plan in Kansas that includes guarantees for appropriations in each county, consideration of reasonable criteria for future project selection and encourages innovative methods of project delivery. These elements provide for fair distribution of resources while also ensuring that high-impact projects are prioritized.

We recognize there are projects under the existing transportation plan that are not yet complete. As a matter of fairness, it is reasonable to expect those projects should be delivered as promised. However, we do believe it is important that flexibility be built into a new plan. For example, should non-state funds become available to support a high-impact project the new transportation plan should be flexible enough to allow for that project to advance – even if current projects are not yet started or completed. This allows the state to maximize resources and encourages communities to seek non-state funds to advance their priority projects.

We believe SB 186 establishes a solid framework for transportation planning and execution in Kansas and ask that you advance the bill for further consideration.

Kevin M. Walker
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