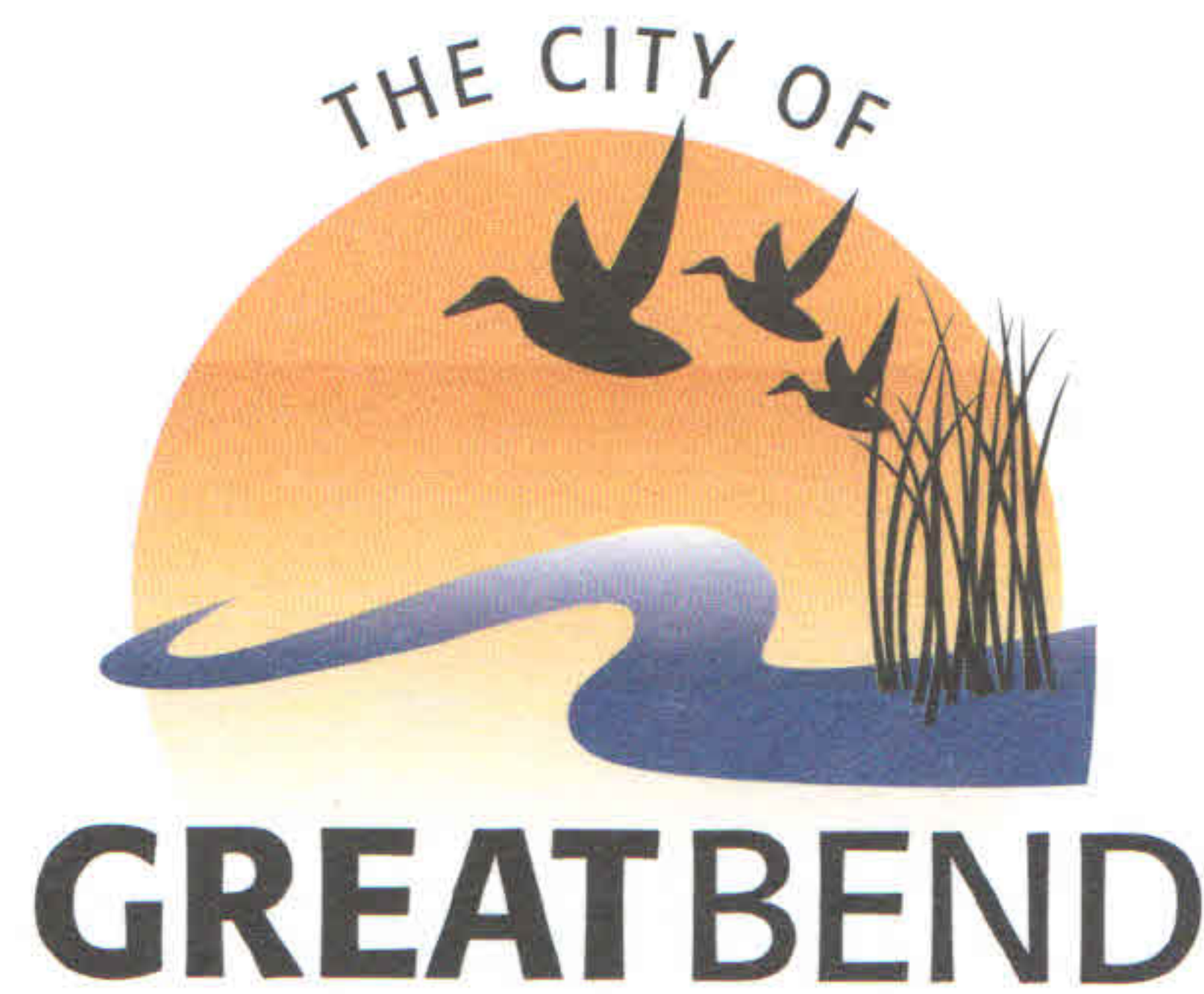


Mike Allison
Mayor

Howard D. Partington
City Administrator

Dawn Jaeger
Assistant City Administrator

Robert G. Suelter
City Attorney



Robert L. Winiecke, P.E.
City Engineer


Terry Hoff
Human Resources Director

Wayne E. Henneke
City Clerk / Finance Director

Judy Manning
Deputy Clerk

February 16, 2012

TO: Honorable Richard Carlson, Chairman, House Taxation Committee

FROM: Howard D. Partington 

SUBJECT: Opposition to HB 2747

Mr. Chairman and honorable committee members, my name is Howard Partington, City Administrator of Great Bend, and I am here to express our opposition to HB 2747 as it relates to funding for KDOT and the future of the T-WORKS program. I have been involved in working in support of all three of the highway/transportation programs over the past twenty some years. Our community is a strong supporter of the T-WORKS program even though none of the system enhancements (including T-WORKS) has ever touched our city limits, or even our county limits. What is important is that our whole state has a transportation system that is progressive and sound. We fear that some of the provisions of HB 2747 would begin a path to a system that none of us would be proud of.

One of the positive points about the T-WORKS program is that it provides considerable jobs throughout the state. As our state tries to pull out of the recession that has gripped our nation, it would seem that taking approximately 350 million dollars from KDOT in the short run with a promise to repay it in the long run would be counterproductive. We need to keep that money where it will continue to create construction and related jobs now as we try to recover. We urge you to leave the funding for KDOT and the T-WORKS program alone and not include it in any of your considerations contained within this bill.

The idea of not fully funding KDOT as provided by the T-WORKS program threatens to disrupt the plans and hopes of numerous communities throughout the state. My understanding is that the money that would be withheld would be repaid in the 2020's. Having been around cities for a long time, I know that it is hard to keep those promises. My experience with programs like LAVTR, City/County Revenue Sharing and the M & E Slider has been that those promises are soon pushed aside with new faces and new challenges.

We urge you to delete and remove the portions of HB 2747 that relate to changes that would affect KDOT. Thank you for your time, and I would answer any questions.