



Dale Goter
Government Relations Manager

TESTIMONY

City of Wichita
455 N Main, Wichita, KS. 67202
Wichita Phone: 316.352.4876
dgoter@wichita.gov

Kansas House Taxation Committee Hearing on HB2747 Opposition testimony by Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer

Chairman Carlson and members of the committee:

As Mayor of the City of Wichita, I submit this opposition to the use of state transportation dollars as a means of financing a broad tax reform measure such as HB2747.

The Wichita City Council is in full support of the Governor's and Legislature's common goal of improving the economy of our state and creating more jobs for its citizens.

However, diverting tax dollars from the T-Works program will be counterproductive and will result in a negative fiscal impact on our state.

The 4/10 sales tax that was approved by the 2010 Kansas Legislature represents a solemn promise by the Legislature to the citizens of Kansas. Diverting it to another use other than transportation would violate that promise and erode the public's faith in its elected leaders.

HB2747 would delay as much as \$350 million in T-Works funding, resulting in project delays, cost increases and the loss of economic development that would be created by those transportation projects.

If the Legislature reneges on its promise to spend the \$350 million as scheduled, can it be trusted to repay it as it describes in HB2747? That scenario is a risky one at best for those communities who see the T-Works projects as a vital component of their economic future.

The City of Wichita adopted a local sales tax in 1985 with a commitment to use the funds to improve the Kellogg/US54 Corridor. More than \$400 million has been spent in fulfillment of that pledge. The Legislature should follow that example and hold true to the T-Works funding schedule.

Gov. Brownback has pledged to not raid KDOT funding and he also has expressed enthusiastic support for the fulfillment of the T-Works agenda. I urge the House Taxation Committee to heed the Governor's words and uphold the integrity of the legislative process.

Carl Brewer
City of Wichita Mayor

LOCAL IMPACT:

Sedgwick Co is allocated \$534 million under T-WORKS. To date, only \$17 million has been expended. Major Wichita projects scheduled for the out years include:

- I-235/US-54 Kellogg interchange – construct southbound flyover and eastbound flyover. \$116 million cost; lets in 2014-2020.
- US-54 – reconstruct 4-lane with Webb Road interchange from Cypress to Wiedemann - \$82 million cost; \$260 million economic impact; lets in 2014-2020.
- US-54 – reconstruct 4-lane with Greenwich interchange from Wiedemann to 127th Street - \$95 million cost; \$366 million economic impact; lets in 2014-2020.
- Northwest Bypass from Goddard east and northeast to K-96. State will assist with purchasing right of way up to \$6.75 million.