



February 15, 2012

The Honorable Richard Carlson  
Chairman, House Taxation Committee  
300 SW 10 Street  
Room: 274W  
Topeka, KS 66612

CITY COMMISSION

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Mayor

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City Manager

MELINDA A. HITZ, CPA  
Finance Director

RANDALL D. GRISELL  
City Counselor

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE  
CENTER  
301 N. 8<sup>TH</sup>  
P.O. Box 998  
GARDEN CITY, KS  
67846-0998  
620.276.1160  
FAX 620.276.1169  
www.garden-city.org

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Garden City, we wish to express our opposition to House Bill 2747 as it relates to transportation funding in our state. This bill would severely impede the ability of the Kansas Department of Transportation to deliver T-WORKS projects as scheduled as it does not allow for the 4/10 cent transfer to KDOT in fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 to fund T-WORKS.

Transportation infrastructure is critical to the safety of region residents and travelers. Transportation infrastructure is also vital to the regional economy's maintenance and growth. T-WORKS projects have been vital to the State, to Finney County, and to Garden City. Counties throughout Kansas, including Finney County, are counting on future highway, transit, aviation and rail improvements that are promised through the T-WORKS program.

In the past, funds have been transferred from transportation to fill State budget gaps. However, this bill proposes that sales tax funds allocated for T-WORKS be diverted to support an income tax plan. While there is a promise to repay funds withheld in 2015-2022, there is no guarantee that such a large increase in funding will be available or sustainable in those years. Similar promises have been made and not kept between the State and local units of government, most notably for cities are the statutorily required ad valorem demand transfers.

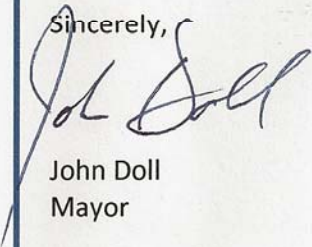
We would also oppose absorbing the sales tax transfer through elimination of existing KDOT programs like Corridor Management and Economic Development. These programs are essential to growing the Southwest Kansas economy.

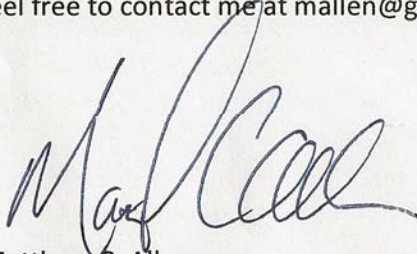
With low construction costs, now is a great time to build new projects. Kansas is beginning an economic recovery. We urge you not to halt that recovery by breaking the promises made under T-WORKS and shutting down one of our strongest jobs programs.

The State should adhere to multi-year transportation commitments and not adversely affect the T-WORKS program or reduce its funding source.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [mallen@garden-city.org](mailto:mallen@garden-city.org) or at 620-276-1160.

Sincerely,

  
John Doll  
Mayor

  
Matthew C. Allen  
City Manager