



Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

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**Comments of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Submitted by Ron Gaches, JD, Executive Director
Expressing Concerns about SR 1805: Regarding Livable Streets
Submitted to Senate Transportation Committee
Monday, February 6, 2012**

Chairman Umbarger and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, please accept these comments regarding Senate Resolution 1805, a resolution supporting livable streets policies. The Executive Committee of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers had the opportunity to discuss SR 1805 this past Friday and have concerns about its impact. Specifically, we are concerned that passage of the Resolution will be used by Livable Streets advocates to insist on modification of traffic engineering recommendations for new street design and modifications to existing streets to accommodate bicycle, pedestrian and other non vehicle traffic where such changes would be inappropriate.

Our point here is very specific. Not all streets are adaptable to being Livable Streets with open access for non vehicle traffic. Some streets are just too busy with fast moving vehicle traffic or suffer from limited easements and access points to make them adaptable to non-vehicle traffic. As a general rule, pedestrian and wheel chair traffic should remain on our sidewalks, and not all streets design can accommodate space for sidewalks. Bicycle traffic is generally regarded separately from pedestrian traffic by traffic engineers and warrants special accommodation in street design where appropriate.

KSPE is not opposed to the many beneficial attributes described by the proponents of the Livable Streets Resolution. Rather we question how the Resolution will be used by those proponents. We are steadfastly opposed to the suggestion by one proponent that the Livable Streets design requirement be made mandatory. Not all street design circumstances will allow for full access to bicycles and non-vehicle traffic on our streets.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers is the largest professional society of Licensed Professional Engineers in Kansas. Our members work in both the private and public sectors in all regions of the state. By their professional oath, they are dedicated to protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the public in their professional work.