



212 SW EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE #200 ■ TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603-3939  
785-233-1903 ■ FAX 785-233-3518 ■ [www.economiclifelines.com](http://www.economiclifelines.com)

**Testimony in Opposition of HB 2136 by Johnnie Koger  
House Taxation Committee  
February 14, 2013**

Good afternoon, Chairman Carlson and members of the Committee. I am Johnnie Koger, voluntary Co-Chairman of Economic Lifelines. We are a coalition of organizations and community groups which provide grassroots support for Comprehensive Transportation Programs in the State. Our membership includes cities, counties, Chambers of Commerce, airports, short-line rail, transit providers, construction workers and engineers and we are united in our opposition to HB 2136 diverting the dedicated 4/10 cent from KDOT to the State General Fund.

Economic Lifelines appreciates the support from Governor Brownback to fully fund and deliver the 2010 T-WORKS program with the dedicated 4/10 cent sales tax. We commend the Governor and Secretary King for their pledge to all Kansans to deliver the program as promised.

The 10-year T-WORKS program creates 175,000 jobs throughout the State and has been part of Governor Brownback's Roadmap for Kansas as it increases private sector employment and attracts new businesses to the State. As the Governor has stated, economic activity and job creation are the best solutions for a budget shortfall and the jobs created by the T-WORKS program are, in fact, driving the economy.

The State must stop relying on transportation-dedicated funding as a readily available source of funds. By diverting the 4/10 cent from the transportation program, you are in essence, breaking a promise to the Kansas taxpayer and putting an end to the T-WORKS program. We believe taxpayer provided funds are to be used for their intended purpose, promises made should be promises kept.

According to a AAA survey conducted last December, when members were asked the question 'How important is it that revenue raised for the Kansas transportation program is used to fund transportation programs and not be used to fund other government programs?', an overwhelming 80% responded 'Very Important'.<sup>(1)</sup> A quality transportation system is not only important to Economic Lifelines, but to your constituents as well.

We ask that you vote against HB 2136. Support what is best for the State of Kansas, for job creation, and for economic development, please fully fund T-WORKS as promised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(1) Source: 2012 AAA Allied Group (KS) Topline, Pankey Research, Sample error: +/- 5.1 percent

# ECONOMIC LIFELINES MEMBERSHIP

AAA Kansas  
ACEC Kansas  
Berry Companies, Inc.  
City of Great Bend  
City of Lansing  
City of Lawrence  
City of Newton  
City of Pittsburg  
Douglas County  
Finney County Economic Development  
Foley Equipment Company  
Hamm, Inc.  
The Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City  
Highway 69 Association  
Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce  
Jobs, Inc.  
Kansas Aggregate & Concrete Associations  
Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association  
Kansas Association of Airports  
Kansas Contractors Association  
Kansas Good Roads, Inc.  
Kansas Motor Carriers Association  
Kansas Public Transit Association  
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers  
Kansas Turnpike Authority  
Kingman County Economic Development  
Koger Agency, Inc.  
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce  
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce  
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
MO/KAN LECET  
MO/KAN Operating Engineers Local 101  
MO/ KS American Concrete Pavement Association  
Monarch Cement Company  
Murphy Tractor  
Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp.  
Olathe Chamber of Commerce  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce  
PCA South Central Cement Promotion Association  
Road Builders Machinery & Supply Co., Inc.  
Salina Airport Authority  
Salina Chamber of Commerce  
S.P.I.R.I.T.  
Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
Travel Industry Association of Kansas  
Watco Companies, Inc.  
Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce

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# ECONOMIC LIFELINES

*Stimulating Economic Vitality Through  
Leadership in Infrastructure Development*

212 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 200 Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 233-1903  
www.economiclifelines.com

## Transportation WORKS for Kansas

- **Transportation funding is critical to boosting jobs and the Kansas economy.** This 10-year, \$7.8 billion program will create 175,000 jobs throughout the State. T-WORKS has been part of Governor Brownback's Roadmap for Kansas as it increases private sector employment and attracts new businesses to the State.
  
- **Diversion of promised funding for Kansas transportation spells disaster.** We must keep all transportation funding in place. We are adamantly opposed to HB 2136 requested by Rep. Virgil Peck, Tyro, which diverts the promised 4/10 of a cent increase that is earmarked for the T-WORKS program. We also oppose HB 2137 which would shift the \$4 registration fee on vehicle registrations. Passage of both bills would divert approximately \$1.2 Billion from T-WORKS over a 7 year period.
  
- **Economic activity is the BEST solution for budget shortfall – now and for tomorrow.** As Governor Brownback has stated, economic activity and job creation are the best solutions for a budget shortfall and the jobs created by the T-WORKS program are, in fact, driving our economic recovery. Each million dollars spent on highway construction creates 47 jobs, which does not include additional indirect and long-term economic development jobs.
  
- **Education, social services, public safety and other state programs are important state functions and must have economic activity to fund them.** A key benefit of a highway construction program is the impact it will have on state resources to meet ongoing obligations like education and other programs. A stagnant economy and continued job loss is taking its toll on these programs. The economic activity resulting from a comprehensive transportation program generates more resources for these critical programs.

**Promises Made- Promises Kept.** The program improvements that are scheduled to be completed within the life of T-WORKS were selected based on criteria that included strong local support within the various regions of the state. Governor Brownback and Secretary King have promised the citizens of Kansas that these projects will be completed over the next 7 years. The credibility of our Kansas elected officials to complete what has been promised is on the line.

*Economic Lifelines is the statewide coalition of organizations and community groups which provide the grassroots support for Comprehensive Transportation Programs in Kansas. Its members believe that the economic development and jobs that are generated by such programs are vital to the stability and growth of the Kansas economy and that of individual communities.*