



March 15, 2018

To: House Transportation Committee

From: R.E. "Tuck" Duncan
Executive Director
Kansas Public Transit Association

RE: HB2775 Establishing the joint legislative transportation vision task force.

The Kansas Public Transit Association supports HB2775.

Transit in Kansas provides important economic, health, and social benefits by giving citizens without regular access to a personal vehicle a way to get to work or to make personal trips and to maintain their independence. In urban areas of the state, buses alleviate traffic congestion and reduce air pollutant emissions.

A capital investment in public transportation translates into thousands of private-sector jobs in the design, construction, and manufacturing industries and in the retail and retail/wholesale trade sectors—not just in the regions served but throughout the country. We have several manufacturers of transit vehicles in Kansas.

Beyond the jobs directly created by new construction or renovation are the jobs created by the ripple effect of a capital investment in public transportation. Consumer spending by transportation workers and riders attracts new businesses that hire new employees.

From suburb to city, from city to suburb and from rural areas to metropolitan centers, a capital investment in public transportation links people with jobs. Most suburbanites who ride public transportation are headed for work.

Public transportation plays a significant role in finding *smart solutions* to the challenges facing America today. Creation of the joint legislative transportation task force as provided by HB2775 will set in motion a statewide initiative to identify current and future transportation needs throughout Kansas.

Kansas's public transit association is one of the entities from whom the pool of members must be drawn. We would hope for a directive in the bill that at least one member of the task force represent transit, just as there should be members representing other modes as well.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this matter.