

March 8, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Transportation
From: R.E. "Tuck" Duncan, Executive Director, Kansas Public Transit Association
RE: House Bill 2096, Operation of transit buses on certain right shoulders in Wyandotte County

In 2010 the Kansas legislature approved KSA 75-5091 which provides that the Secretary of Transportation may authorize transit buses to be operated upon the right shoulders of city connecting



links and other highways in the state highway system in Johnson County. This legislation would extend that authority to Wyandotte County. Transit buses would be authorized to be operated upon shoulders only if the speed of traffic on such connecting link or highway has been reduced to less than 35 miles per hour. Further

drivers of transit buses being operated upon the shoulder under this section shall: not exceed the traffic speed by more than 10 miles per hour; and shall yield to merging, entering and exiting traffic and to other vehicles on the shoulder.

Further, the secretary of transportation shall adopt such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including any requirements for highway signage.

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation:

“Transit service has been improved along I-35 with a bus-on-shoulder operational test. The bus-on-shoulder allows transit buses to use shoulders to by-pass traffic congestion when speeds drop below 35 mph. This test implementation has supported an increase in transit ridership in this corridor. There is a possibility that more bus-on-shoulder operations could be implemented thereby further improving transit ridership”.¹

According to the Transit Cooperative Research Program (Federal Transit Administration):

“BOS projects have proven to be popular with bus passengers and communities that have implemented them, and the bus drivers that operate on the shoulders feel that they are good projects. ... they utilize current right-of-way, they are low cost and relatively easy to implement.”²

We have no objection to the reporting amendment to SB35 on the same topic.

We respectfully ask for your favorable support of HB 2096. *Thank you.*

¹ https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/5CountyStudy/pdfs/phase_2_final_report/I-35_Corridor.pdf

² http://www.tcrponline.org/PDFDocuments/TCRP_RPT_151.pdf