



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

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House Committee on Transportation
Written Testimony in Support of HB 2373
March 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard Proehl, Chair, and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

The Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) is a member association comprised of tourism and travel professionals from across the state of Kansas. The Kansas travel industry provides \$10 billion in expenditures and sustains more than 94,000 jobs in our state.

As an organization, we believe that a strong transportation program is vital not only for the travel and tourism industry but for the economic vitality and continued business growth, retention and recruitment for our state.

The potential programs provided for in House Bill 2373, we believe, will lay the groundwork for a much-needed state wide program and TIAK fully supports the House Transportation Committee in creating this piece of legislation.

We applaud the Committee for the inclusive nature of the language in HB 2373 as it recognizes the need for cooperation between not only local, regional, city and county levels but also federal participation with the Kansas Department of Transportation in meeting our immediate transportation needs, while looking towards our collective long-term growth goals. We also commend the inclusion of alternative modes of transportation such as improving on bicycle and pedestrian transportation in both rural and urban settings as we strive to meet a continued demand for this specific type of safe, personal transportation infrastructure.

The Travel Industry Association of Kansas encourages the House Transportation Committee to forward HB 2373 to the House as a whole with your strongest recommendation for passage. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and other agencies as appropriate, to provide industry insight and assist in any way to enhance the outlined program successes.

We thank you for your hard work and determination in guiding our states transportation priorities and again, please accept our full support of HB 2373.

Sincerely,

James Zaleski

James Zaleski, Advocacy Committee Chair
Travel Industry Association of Kansas