



March 7, 2019

**Proponent Testimony on SB 192
Senate Transportation Committee**

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 200 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain thousands of good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

The KCA applauds the recommendations of the Task Force to reduce the highway transfers, invest in preservation and modernization projects, complete commitments made under T-Works and identify stable, consistent funding for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

SB 192 was one of the bills recommended by the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force to update Kansas' tolling statutes.

Allow Partial Tolling

The Kansas Contractors Association believes tolling is an important financing option for the Kansas transportation system going forward. Kansas statutes currently only allow for tolling when the entire project can be funded with tolling. SB 192 would give KDOT the flexibility to use tolling to partly finance new transportation projects.

Local Community Input

Another important aspect of SB 192 is the new language in Section 4 (D) which would require consultation with local officials to determine traffic volume, local participation or other relevant factors that would determine the feasibility of tolling a project. The task force recommendation was such that tolling is an important component for the transportation system going forward but only when done in consultation with local communities.

Tolling Approval

The new language on page 7 of SB 192 amends approval of tolling for transportation projects from the Legislature to the Secretary of Transportation. KCA would agree with the amendment offered by the Kansas Department of Transportation for tolling projects to be approved by the State Finance Council instead of the Secretary of Transportation. The State Finance Council is comprised of the Governor, legislative leadership from both political parties and the chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means committees. The State Finance Council would provide appropriate oversight by the Kansas Legislature while giving the administration necessary input into the process.

Tolling Technology

Today's toll highways use more technology to speed transactions and enhance the motorist experience than a generation ago. Tolling is moving away from cash and embracing technology—all-electronic tolling. The move to cashless tolling is one in a series of technological advances on toll roads that will continue to move people and goods safely and efficiently across Kansas and our country.

As more tolling innovations make their way onto the transportation system and as the industry works toward achieving interoperability nationwide, drivers are looking at a user-friendly future enhanced by technology that results in greater convenience and safety on highways.

Tolling technology makes it possible to utilize tolling in several different ways. For example, tolling can be used just during high traffic times and differentiate tolls for certain drivers based on address. With the passage of SB 192, KDOT in consultation with local communities will be able to use tolling technology where feasible to improve the transportation system.

Again, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today. We appreciate your favorable consideration of SB192 to update the tolling statutes in Kansas. As KDOT modernizes the transportation system in Kansas, allowing for tolling to partially finance transportation projects with local input will be an additional financing mechanism to help improve the system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael White". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael White
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