

Kansas Good Roads, Inc.

TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Transportation

SB 192

An Act concerning transportation; relating to toll projects; authorizing the secretary of transportation to designate or construct toll projects; changing toll project financing requirements.

Whitney Damron

March 7, 2019

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Good Roads would respectfully ask for your support of SB 192, which would allow for consideration of transportation infrastructure projects in our state that could be fully or partially funded through tolling. Key to the bill is an amendment to K.S.A. 68-2002 et. seq., to allow a project to be “financed partly” through tolling, rather than financed “wholly”. The bill also contains requirements for feasibility studies by KDOT should a project be considered for tolling and include consultation with local officials where a project might be considered.

In the fall of 2018, the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force met throughout the state to solicit input from citizens and stakeholders for consideration by the State in crafting a comprehensive transportation plan to succeed the ten-year T-WORKS plan passed by the 2010 Legislature. A major challenge for completing T-WORKS has been funding and any consideration of a new plan also requires difficult decisions as to how to pay for investments in our state transportation infrastructure. One of the topics reviewed was tolling.

It is doubtful a tolling option makes sense in any but possibly a few locations and maybe not even in the near future. However, approval of SB 192 will give KDOT a tool to use in their planning process that can be considered should the right kind of project be identified.

Tolling is commonplace in many states for expensive infrastructure projects – roads, bridges, high-speed lanes and the like. The Kansas Turnpike is considered one of the premier roadways in the center of the United States and possibly there could be other areas of the state where tolling could help make possible a much-needed infrastructure enhancement that could not otherwise be considered.

The members of Kansas Good Roads appreciate your consideration of SB 192 and encourage its favorable consideration.

Kansas Good Roads, Inc.

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An association created to promote good roads in Kansas for all, by those who build them for people who use them.