

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 377  
RELATING TO DESIGNATING A PORTION OF K-7  
AS THE SENATOR PAUL "BUD" BURKE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

**February 19, 2020**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Joel Skelley, Director of Policy for The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide neutral testimony for Senate Bill 377 relating to designating a portion of K-7 as the Senator Paul "Bud" Burke Memorial Highway.

A departure from previous statutes is the proposed legislation includes a request for a nickname on one of the requested segments. This has not been allowed in the past because nicknames are not allowed under the provision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which governs the placement of signs on state highways in Kansas. Departure from the requirements of the MUTCD establish a precedent that is a concern for the agency and may be difficult to resolve when future requests for memorial signs are made. KDOT would request the designation be for the Senator Paul Burke Memorial Highway.

In this instance, K-7 in the city of Olathe extends north to K-10. Part of K-7 has freeway characteristics and part has conventional roadway characteristics. We have accounted for the conventional roadway characteristics by making a smaller sign. On conventional roadways, installing memorial signs are a challenge due to utilities, entrances, pedestrian facilities, ROW. Also, in this instance, KDOT is not sure who will be responsible to install the sign on the conventional roadway section. The City of Olathe will need to be consulted and on board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written neutral testimony on Senate Bill 377.