



February 18, 2020

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Tim Danneberg, Communication Director, City of Olathe

SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of SB 375

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The City of Olathe has long believed that funding infrastructure for not only preservation, but also for growth and economic development, is essential to Kansas' future. Transportation investment is critical to our City's financial stability. Adequately funding both new and maintenance projects is critical, and if delayed, could cost many millions more. State investment into transportation creates opportunities for continued growth throughout the state ensuring Kansas, and its businesses, can compete both regionally and nationally.

While the term "investment" has been used for general spending, investment in the highway program has a real and tangible return. In Olathe's case, that includes addressing the traffic bottleneck at the I-35/Santa Fe interchange, identifying and funding options to address railroad challenges for economic development and traffic flow, improving state highway sections/partnerships at 169 Highway and addressing capacity along the eastern portion of K-10. All of which have measurable economic benefits.

Specifically, the City of Olathe supports the following provisions in the proposed FORWARD program:

- Rolling 2-year Plan: The City supports the proposal of a 2-year rolling program, where projects are selected for development and construction every two years. This will allow the program to respond more quickly to emerging needs while affording program flexibility throughout the length of the program.
- Prioritizing Preservation
- Alternative delivery: The City supports authorizing discretion for the Secretary to utilize alternate delivery methods when it is more efficient and cost-effective.

In addition, the City applauds Secretary Lorenz for putting together a program that does not require new funding, but instead funds it by restoring the sales tax transfer, bonding authority, and an increase in the local match. We urge lawmakers to support this funding plan and not redirect the existing sales tax revenue to fill other state budget needs.

The City of Olathe strongly supports SB 375 and request your support for its passage.