

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Research Associate

Date: February 16, 2021

RE: Support for HB 2201- Written

Thank you to Chairman Proehl and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2201.

The 625 cities in Kansas range in population from 10 to 390,591. Our Kansas cities are unique, and their responsibilities are varied, so too are their transportation systems and needs; however, one thing all cities share is the need for a consistent and dependable transportation plan at the state level. In 2019, the League supported enacting the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program (HB 2373) which sought to provide a consistent and dependable transportation plan for 10 years.

The transportation plan provides for credit and credit enhancements to cities and counties in meeting their responsibilities for the construction, improvement reconstruction and maintenance of the roads and bridges not on the state highway system. There are approximately 17,000 miles of city roadways in this state and more than half of local bridges are over fifty years old. The Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program provides necessary assistance to help local units of government with increasing costs of transportation maintenance and construction to deal with existing issues and emerging technology and modes of transportation essential for vibrant economic development. It also continued the apportionment of the special city and county highway fund and allow local units of government to exchange federal aid funds for state funds.

HB 2201 would make the benefits of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program more accessible to local government mainly by reducing the threshold for alternate delivery projects from \$100,000,000 to \$10,000,000. In addition, the bill allows the Secretary to let to construction any modernization or expansion project under the Eisenhower legacy transportation program that use federal stimulus funds regardless of if there are outstanding projects.

The League of Kansas Municipalities is supportive of the suggested modifications to the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program. We support HB 2201 and respectfully ask the committee to recommend the bill favorably to the full House for its consideration.