

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Date: March 19, 2019

RE: Support for HB 2373

I want to thank Chairman Proehl and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2373.

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. HB 2373 seeks to provide this for the next 10 years.

The transportation plan shall provide 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. This plan will provide 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 will also continue the apportionment of the special city and county highway fund and allow local units of government to exchange federal aid funds for state funds.

We respectfully ask this Committee to pass HB 2373 favorably to the full Senate for consideration.