



March 19, 2019
House Transportation Committee
Proponent Testimony HB 2373

Chair Proehl and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 200 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain thousands of good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

The KCA applauds the efforts of the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force and the Legislature on working towards a vision for transportation in Kansas. If no vision exists in Kansas for transportation, it is very difficult for contractors, communities and the state to plan, grow and develop a strategy for infrastructure that would modernize and preserve our system. HB 2373 was introduced at the request of the task force to set in motion their priorities and framework for a new vision for transportation in Kansas.

Task Force Priorities

The KCA supports the priorities of the task force and believes HB 2373 provides the necessary framework. Task Force priorities as outlined in HB 2373 include:

1. Commitment to fulfill promises with the T-Works program. New modernization and expansion projects could not begin construction until the delayed T-Works projects are let unless non-state funds became available for such project with an emerging need or economic opportunity.
2. KDOT project selection criteria could consider removal of infrastructure from the state highway system, create priority corridors and require local participation.
3. Implement a new county bridge program for the approximate 20,000 bridges on the local system.
4. Allow KDOT to study emerging transportation technologies.
5. \$8 million spending guarantee for each county.
6. Develop with industry stakeholders an alternative delivery proposal for consideration in the 2020 legislative session.

All Modes

The KCA has always supported a comprehensive approach to transportation. HB 2373 includes all modes including rail, aviation, public transit and recreation paths. The task force was very clear that planning for transportation must be done with a comprehensive approach and include all modes.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to appear before you today. We appreciate your favorable consideration of HB 2373.

Michael White, Executive Director