



Manhattan • Emporia • Topeka • Lawrence

A coalition of local Chambers of Commerce

**Testimony in Support of HB 2373  
House Transportation Committee  
March 19, 2019**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence (METL) express their full support for House Bill 2373, which creates a much-needed program to plan, develop and operate the various modes and systems of transportation within the State of Kansas. This is the natural follow-on to the work last year of the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force.

Transportation is among the four legislative priorities the METL Coalition has identified for 2019. METL is determined to fight for inclusion in the new comprehensive long-term transportation plan of: the replacement of the I-70 / Polk / Quincy Viaduct and the expansion of the South Lawrence Traffic way (K10) from two lanes to four. In addition, METL strongly opposes further diversion of funding from transportation.

The four Chambers that make up the METL Coalition represent more than 3,000 Kansas businesses. Safe, undisrupted flow of people and goods across our highways is critical to our communities' growth and future prosperity. We look forward to engaging fully with the secretary and our legislative delegation to help forge a new highway program which addresses the needs of Kansans generally and provides specifically for these two important projects.

Please support House Bill 2373.

Respectfully,

METL - The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka and Lawrence