

Testimony

Salina, KS 6 Sep 2018

Sen Randall Hardy, 24th District

Transportation Task Force

Thank you for including the 24th Senate District in your schedule. I appreciate this opportunity to talk to you about transportation needs in Saline County and our region.

Salina is at the intersection of two major interstates, I-70 and I-135. Therefore, we are acutely aware of the importance of good infrastructure to get our goods to market, and for general transportation traffic.

Kansas has had a history of an excellent infrastructure. Kansans take pride in our highways that are safe, efficient and kept in good condition. Unfortunately, our state deviated from that tradition by transferring \$2.7 billion from the highway fund to balance the budget state general fund between 2010 and 2016. That policy was addressed in 2017, but our budget still has not recovered to the point where those transfers have been eliminated. The legislature still needs to address transfers, with the goal of eliminating them completely as soon as possible. We need to fully fund the highway plan to keep our infrastructure in good condition, and to provide safe and efficient roads for our citizens to travel.

Another element of having predictable funding for Highway's is the need to provide reliable and adequate funding so that our local highway contractors are not required to do a substantial amount of their work outside of the state of Kansas. That system is neither efficient or inexpensive.

We in this area are fortunate to have four lane divided highways going in both east-west and north-south. But I have already seen the beginnings of deterioration in the system. Roads that are not adequately maintained eventually need to be replaced, at a much larger cost to taxpayers.

I fully support the work of the transportation task force and its mission of listening and communicating with Kansas citizens. I look forward to taking the results of the task force and using them to put together a framework for adequate highway funding in the future.