



Testimony of Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

In Support of HB 2775

Before the House Transportation Committee

March 15, 2018

The **Kansas City Area Transportation Authority** (KCATA and, oftentimes, ATA) is a bi-state agency created by a compact between the States of Missouri and Kansas, and approved by the United States Congress. The compact was authorized by legislation passed in both states in 1965. The compact gives the ATA responsibility for planning, construction, owning and operating passenger transportation systems and facilities within the seven-county Kansas City metropolitan area. The compact defines the ATA district as the counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte in Missouri; and Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte in Kansas. The Authority's jurisdiction is limited to these seven counties.

The ATA is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners, five from Missouri and five from Kansas. Responsibility for the management, control and operation of the Authority and its properties is vested in the Board.

Since 2015, the ATA has been managing the region's transit systems as **RideKC**. Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas, along with Independence, Missouri, have systems currently being managed by the KCATA and operating as part of the regional **RideKC** brand. The ATA operates **RideKC Bus** service, the MAX Bus Rapid Transit service, Flex demand-response routes, **RideKC Freedom** paratransit service for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and **RideKC Van** vanpool services. The ATA also partners with **RideKC** Streetcar for multiple administrative services, as well as current route extension studies.

Public transportation trends across the nation are evolving. While most cities continue to move large numbers of daily riders along fixed routes, innovative services focusing on small vehicle-short trip services, smart phone apps, and demand-response services – all driven by changing customer needs and requests. The ATA has been on the leading edge of microtransit applications and continues to pilot programs targeting changing attitudes and rider demands. **RideKC** innovations are targeting passenger notifications, fare payment methods, off board fare payments, dynamic routing based on ridership demands, security partnerships with local law enforcement, and on-street amenities. Jobs Access and healthcare transportation are currently two issues that the ATA staff is working hard to provide innovative solutions for.

The Authority, on behalf of its Kansas community partnerships, appreciates the opportunity support the passage of HB 2775. The ATA stands ready to provide support to the upcoming Task Force for statewide transportation services and projects.

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