



To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
From: Adam Stodola, P.E., F.NSPE
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas
Date: February 18, 2020
Re: Support of SB 375

Madam Chair and members of the committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support of SB 375.

I am Adam Stodola, P.E, F.NSPE, a past president of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers and past Co-Chair of the KDOT/ACEC Partnering Committee. Today, I am proud to represent the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) and American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC Kansas).

KSPE represents the individual licensed engineers across the State of Kansas. For over 110 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering by delivering professional development services, encouraging licensure, and advocating legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry. ACEC Kansas is the trade association representing private consulting engineering firms doing work in the State of Kansas. ACEC of Kansas serves the needs of those firms and is dedicated to the promotion and development of the highest standards of professional competence and ethics.

KSPE and ACEC Kansas both strongly support SB 375. This would install Forward, a new ten year comprehensive transportation plan to succeed T-WORKS. Forward will be a ten-year, rolling program. The rolling program provides flexibility and responsiveness to meet the needs of Kansans. Project prioritization, with involvement from Kansans through Local Consult meetings, will occur every two years for both development and construction. Forward also includes mechanisms that facilitate Local support, such as the Cost Share, Economic Development, and Local Bridge programs, which leverage both State and Local funds to deliver improvements that benefit the users of the Kansas system. Additionally, regional

commitments will be made in the form of the \$8 million promise, similar to T-WORKS, where KDOT commits to spend \$8 million in each county over ten years. Further, Forward calls for no less than three expansion or modernization projects for each of the six KDOT district over the same ten years.

There is no new tax proposed to fund Forward. However, it is imperative the transfers from the State Highway Fund cease to ensure the health of the proposed program. This means the “Bank of KDOT” must close.

ACEC Kansas worked closely with KDOT, Economic Lifelines, and other stakeholders in the development of Forward. As we look to the state’s future, KSPE and ACEC want Kansas to be competitive with our neighbors with infrastructure that allows us to safely travel and grow. Infrastructure safety is paramount to our societies’ missions.

We encourage your support of SB 375. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter.

Respectfully,

Adam Stodola, P.E., F.NSPE