



300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3912
Phone: (785) 354-9565
Fax: (785) 354-4186

To: Senate Utilities Committee
From: Mark Tomb, LKM
Date: March 6, 2007
Re: HB 2485 LED Lighting

Thank you for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to clarify a few points regarding the requirement that any new lighting installed in traffic signals after January 1, 2008 be installed with light-emitting diodes (commonly referred to as LED lighting). While this is a mandate, LKM finds that almost all new construction of traffic signals complies with the provisions of HB 2485. The somewhat troubling part will be the replacement of existing traffic signals. While it is generally cost effective to replace traffic signals from an energy cost standpoint, this is not always the case. This choice is currently left to the discretion of the city.

For example, the City of Topeka has replaced nearly all of the red and green traffic signals with LED lighting over the past three years. However, they have not replaced their yellow (or amber) lights. Amber lights are on for only a few seconds at a time and regular incandescent bulbs will last nearly as long as the LED red and green lights. LED amber bulbs cost about \$95 where incandescent amber bulbs cost about \$3. It will take a considerable amount of time to make up the increased initial costs versus total operating costs (including energy) to have the improvement pay for itself. This is not to say it will not pay for itself, as many cities have decided to replace all traffic signal lights based on economics. The important point is that right now cities are making choices based on energy usage and overall costs.

LKM believes that LED lighting is an important way to save energy and that cities should strongly consider LED lighting options as a way to save energy and resources. However, requiring all cities to install LED lighting in existing traffic signals may have unintended consequences on seldom used traffic lights or on some older traffic signals.