



***Testimony By
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Wichita Police Department***

Traffic Safety Corridor Legislation

House Transportation Committee

1:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012

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Thank you for this opportunity to offer the perspective of the Wichita Police Department on this important legislation, House Bill 2556.

Traffic safety corridors are a common sense approach to reducing traffic fatalities, injuries and property damage. By doubling the fines for moving violations on Kansas highways that have historically seen high numbers of collisions, this legislation will do much to save lives and reduce the number of traffic-related injuries.

Over the last 15 years, Wichita's Kellogg Avenue, US-54 Highway, has evolved from a four-lane throughway to a high-speed, six-lane expressway. With that expansion, Wichita has seen an increase in traffic crashes that have left hundreds of Kansans dead or injured.

Between 2007 and 2011, more than 4,500 crashes have been reported on US-54 inside Wichita's city limits. There have been 1,077 injury or fatal crashes, and more than 840 DUI citations. During that same period on US-54 in Wichita, more than 62,000 traffic citations have been issued. A comparison of other areas of Wichita where traffic collisions occur shows that, by far, US-54 leads the rest of the city.

House Bill 2556 would create a traffic safety partnership between the Kansas Department of Transportation and local Kansas communities. It would allow the designation of US-54 as a traffic safety corridor from Wichita's east to west city limits.

Through the doubling of moving violation fines, signage, aggressive enforcement and education, the Kellogg Traffic Safety Corridor will help reduce the number of citizens who are killed or injured each year on what has become one of Wichita's most dangerous commuter routes.

By advancing this legislation, you will demonstrate your clear commitment to promoting public safety in Wichita and on the highways of Kansas. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of House Bill 2556, and I would stand for questions at the appropriate time.