

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

REGARDING THE JOHNSON COUNTY BUS ON SHOULDER PROGRAM

January 24, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Joel Skelley, State Multimodal Planner for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) here today to report on the Bus on Shoulder program, in accordance with KSA 75-5091. I will be providing the committee with a bit of background on the Bus on Shoulder program in Kansas, and Johnson County will update you on the implementation of the program.

The Bus on Shoulder Legislation was passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2010 after a 2008 study of the I-35 corridor evaluated the various transit alternatives and indicated that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) was the locally preferred option. In October 2011 necessary modifications to the shoulders began. Transit Drivers began being trained on the program in December of 2011 and the Xpress Service buses began operating on the shoulders of I-35 in Johnson County in January of 2012.

The enacting legislation allows buses to operate on the shoulders of I-35 in Johnson County when traffic has slowed to less than 35 miles per hour (mph). The buses are only allowed to travel up to 10 mph over the adjacent traffic's speed. For example if traffic is moving at 20 mph, buses traveling on the shoulder will be traveling at 30 mph.

KDOT has continued to work closely with Johnson County Transit to provide assistance with the Bus on Shoulder program implementation and operations in Johnson County. KDOT will continue to be supportive of this project as an opportunity to relieve congestion on some of the state's busiest highways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Bus on Shoulder program. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.