



**Hb 2775 TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MYCA BUNCH, PRESIDENT
GARDEN CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

March 13, 2018

Chairman Proehl and members of the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2775. I am Myca Bunch, President of the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce. We support this bill that creates a joint legislative task force to explore the prioritization of future transportation and infrastructure investments in Kansas.

The mission of the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce is to improve the quality of life, aid in economic growth and development, represent the business community on legislative issues and encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors. Our economy relies on an adequate transportation system. Roads don't end at the city limits or county lines, and southwest Kansas' connectivity to the multi-state region is critical for industries and small businesses. Our connectivity to the multi-state region is critical for Kansas.

Our transportation policy also addresses the issue from a multi-modal and regional perspective.

To address travel, freight delivery, safety needs and/or economic growth for western Kansas, the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce, in addition to necessary maintenance of roads, supports the following prioritized transportation initiatives:

- Widening of US Highway 83, to include passing lanes with the prospect of four lane enhancement, from the southern border of Kansas northward to I-70.
- Widening of Kansas Highway 156, including passing lanes, from Garden City to Larned.
- Continual and stable funding for the Garden City Regional Airport, as It has become the regional airport within western Kansas.
- Transforming US Highway 50/400, form Garden City to Mullinville, into a four-lane highway.
- Upgrades to rail infrastructure for both freight and passenger service.
- Appropriate funding, by the State of Kansas and local partnerships, for expanded transit services.

Our support for this bill creating a joint legislative task force to explore the prioritization of future transportation and infrastructure investments in Kansas is, in large part, due to the significant value we received in the collaborative work with our regional neighbors.

It's imperative that we build a vision to complete the T-WORKS program and address new and emerging needs that are important to communities such as Garden City. For these reasons, the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports HB 2775. We respectfully ask that you do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Thomeczek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "T".

Rick Thomeczek, Vice President
Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce