

TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REGARDING SENATE BILL 35
RELATED TO ALLOWING BUSES TO OPERATE ON SHOULDERS OF
STATE HIGHWAYS IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Reid Petty with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). K.S.A. 75-5091, adopted in 2010, allowed the operation of transit buses on shoulders of state highways in Johnson County. KDOT supports Senate Bill 35 which will amend K.S.A. 75-5091 to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to expand operation of “buses on shoulders” into Wyandotte County.

Johnson County transit providers have successfully operated buses on shoulders on Interstate 35 in Johnson County since 2012, which has contributed to a reduction in traffic congestion in areas where it has been implemented. SB 35 would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to expand the “buses on shoulders” program to also allow transit agencies to operate buses upon right shoulders of city connecting links and other highways in Wyandotte County. Such operation in Wyandotte County would be allowed under the conditions currently in place for operation in Johnson County: (1) if the speed of traffic on a connecting link or highway has been reduced to less than 35 miles per hour and (2) bus drivers may not exceed the traffic speed by more than 10 miles per hour and must yield to merging, entering, and exiting traffic and to other vehicles on the shoulder. In addition, the required annual reporting on the tenth day of each regular annual session of the legislature will no longer be required.

As indicated, KDOT supports SB 35. It should be noted that Johnson County has committed to fund the anticipated cost of implementation for FY 2018 of \$250,000.00. The Secretary’s authorization of the operation of buses on shoulders in Wyandotte County will be contingent upon execution of an agreement between the Secretary and Johnson County for Johnson County to assume payment for such costs.

Thank you for your time today. I will now stand for questions.