



OVERLAND PARK

K A N S A S

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

20 March 2019

Representative Troy Waymaster
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Representative Waymaster and Members of the Committee:

I am Kevin Walker, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2369. This bill opens the door for the Kansas Turnpike Authority to work cooperatively with local units of government and communities as they plan for transportation projects of importance in their area.

It is no secret there is pent up demand for transportation projects and appropriate funding to support them. This demand is compelling communities and stakeholders to work toward creative solutions. In Overland Park we are proud that numerous projects in our area have been funded with innovative support between the city, private developers and other units of government.

- This bill allows the KTA to be part of these discussions – without committing to anything - as communities explore all options. This innovation provides great value for taxpayers and potentially relieves pressure on existing transportation funds.
- Nothing in this bill commits anyone to tolling – it simply opens the door for community and state officials to study the viability of tolling
- The bill doesn't open the door for tolling projects indiscriminately throughout the state. The projects must be welcomed by the impacted communities and must be viable.
- The bill allows for the innovative use of tolling on new construction that increases capacity. Motorists would still have the choice to use non-tolled portions of the road for their travel.
- The bill opens provides relief to the transportation fund by authorizing alternate methods of financing new construction in areas where it is welcomed by the community and is economically viable.

This is one of several recommendations from last year's Transportation Task Force. They spent a considerable amount of time hearing from stakeholders across the state and it speaks volumes that this is one of the recommendations they offered as worthy of further consideration.

We agree and ask that you support HB 2369.

Kevin M. Walker

Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

