


A New Comprehensive Transportation Program for Kansas

Action Packet for City and County Officials
April 2008

A long, straight road stretches from the bottom center towards the horizon, flanked by rolling hills and fields. The road has a dashed center line and solid edge lines. The landscape is rendered in a high-contrast, grainy style.

A Joint Legislative Initiative of the
League of Kansas Municipalities & Kansas Association of Counties



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To: City Governing Bodies; Boards of County Commissioners
From: Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities *DM*
Randall Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties *RA*
Subject: Joint Action Request for 2009 Comprehensive Transportation Program
Date: April 1, 2008

Issue Summary:

The 10-year, comprehensive transportation program enacted by the Kansas Legislature in 1999 with strong city and county support will conclude in 2009. The economic and safety enhancement benefits to the state and its citizens from the 1999 program have been enormous, but substantial transportation needs remain.

It is likely that the 2009 Legislature will consider a Comprehensive Transportation Program. It is essential that local governing bodies act soon to identify specific transportation needs that could be addressed by the new program.

The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties have long been active in advocating for transportation improvements to benefit local economies and the state economy as a whole. It is very important, however, that individual cities and counties be active members of this process.

Action Requested:

1) Meet/Confer with Other Local Jurisdictions. Governing bodies of cities and counties are strongly encouraged to confer with other local governing bodies and their staff to discuss and, if possible, reach consensus on the critical transportation priorities for the community/county/region, as a way of demonstrating that jurisdictions are contemplating and prioritizing needs in harmony with other local jurisdictions. In the less likely event in which consensus cannot be developed about local transportation priorities and needs between and among jurisdictions, a constructive, respectful "agree to disagree" position of the parties is infinitely more helpful than a more adversarial approach in terms of building support for state transportation funding. Please keep in mind that "transportation" is defined very broadly to include roads, streets, highways, rural and urban mass transportation, airports, and rail facilities. We anticipate that any new CTP will be multi-modal in approach, including all forms of transportation infrastructure.

2) Adopt Local Resolutions. Governing bodies (cities, counties) as well as other local organizations (chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus, main street organizations, economic development or community development groups and agencies) should take formal action to establish their specific highway and transportation needs through the adoption of formal resolutions which incorporate: 1) specific transportation needs for the community (defined rather narrowly or defined more broadly to perhaps include an entire county or economic region); and 2) endorsement of a new statewide Comprehensive Transportation Program by the Kansas Legislature in 2009 to address those needs.

3) Distribute Copies of Resolutions. Copies of the resolutions should be distributed widely, to Governor Sebelius and members of the Kansas Legislature; to non-incumbent candidates seeking election to the Kansas Legislature; to editors/publishers/news media; and to your respective state association (LKM, KAC, or both).

4) Communicate with Legislative Candidates. In addition, it is important that you urge candidates seeking election/reelection to the Kansas Legislature to refrain from making early commitments concerning tax/spending decisions which may be required by a new Comprehensive Transportation Program. Such early commitments could be problematic to legislators who later realize that transportation needs exist and should be addressed.

For your convenience, a model city resolution or a model county resolution is included in this packet. Feel free to adapt the resolution to your needs.

Governor Sebelius is expected to appoint a Task Force which will conduct public hearings around the state later this year to receive comments from local communities about their transportation needs. **As such, your immediate attention to this letter is respectfully requested.**

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call our offices. Thank you for your assistance in this important work. You and other local officials are vital to the successful enactment of a Comprehensive Transportation Program for Kansas in 2009.

(Sample: Customize for Your City or County)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR _____ (CITY/COUNTY), KANSAS CONCERNING THE ENACTMENT BY THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE OF A NEW STATE-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, one of the major responsibilities of (City/County) government is to plan for the immediate and long-term transportation needs of the (city/county);

WHEREAS, [the Governing Body of the City of _____, Kansas (hereinafter the "City") or Board of County Commissioners of _____ County, Kansas (hereinafter the "County")], has conducted the necessary investigations to identify the transportation capital improvements that are needed in the (city/county); and

WHEREAS, these specific transportation capital improvements are essential to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens in the future; and

WHEREAS, these specific transportation capital improvements are vital to the economic well-being of the (city/county) and to its long-term growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the failure to undertake these transportation capital improvements will impede and may prevent the economic needs and goals of the (city/county) from being accomplished; and

WHEREAS, the (city/county) is unable to finance such capital transportation improvements without substantial assistance from the State of Kansas and the Kansas Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas and the Department of Transportation cannot sufficiently address the transportation needs of the (city/county) and other cities and counties across the state without the enactment of a new Comprehensive Transportation Program by the Kansas Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY [THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF _____, KANSAS OR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF _____ COUNTY, KANSAS]:

Section 1. Priority Transportation Projects. After careful investigation of the transportation needs in the (city/county), the following transportation capital improvements are hereby declared to be vital to the future economic growth and development of the (city/county) and the safety of its citizens:

(List capital improvements here separately)

- (1)
- (2)

Section 2. New Comprehensive Transportation Program. The (city/county) hereby endorses and supports the enactment of a new Comprehensive Transportation Program by the Kansas Legislature of sufficient size and magnitude to address the specific transportation capital improvements set forth in Section 1.

Section 3. The (city/county) clerk shall send copies of this resolution and any supporting documentation to: Governor Kathleen Sebelius; State Senator(s) _____; State Representative(s) _____; all candidates for state representative; all local news media outlets; and the (League of Kansas Municipalities/Kansas Association of Counties).

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

[Affix appropriate attestations]