



1521 K-96 Highway, P.O. Box 838, Great Bend Ks 67530
Office (620) 792-1325 Fax (620) 792-9119

Oral Testimony – October 4, 2018
Newton, Kansas
K-96 Expansion Project

To KDOT Leadership considering the need to make K-96 a safer Kansas Highway:
As referenced in my Letter of Support for the K-96 Expansion project a few weeks ago, to finish that project from Nickerson to Lyons would prove to be a safety solution for our drivers and passengers as a nonprofit agency providing public transportation to 5 central Kansas counties (Rice, Barton, Stafford, Pawnee and Rush).

In addition to providing public transportation to the elderly, disabled as well as the general public, we also serve children ages birth to 3 who are born with developmental delays or disabilities in the same 5 counties (including Rice County). This program is called our Tiny-K program and our therapist (Speech Therapists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Translators and Certified Teachers) provide these early developmental services at the home of the child in order to create as much comfort as possible for the child and the family while gaining in developmental capabilities.

Providing these services in the home means we travel our state highways every day helping these children reach certain developmental benchmarks to prepare them for life. Currently we are serving 160 children in this capacity and 36 of them are residents in Rice County which means we travel K-96 several times each week. As you will see in the “children served” list below, our staff uses K-96 every day;

Children Served in our Tiny K Program – Birth to age 3

Barton County	– 80 Children
Rice County	- 36 Children
Stafford County	- 22 Children
Pawnee County	- 18 Children
Rush County	- 4 Children
	Total - 160

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In addition to our Tiny-K developmental service program, we also offer a Pre-school for children ages 3 to 5 and over the years (because of our ability to work with special needs children) we've had families bring their kids to our Incredible Years Pre-School. So far in 2018, we've served 72 children in our pre-school.

As a special needs adult service agency, we also provide medical transportation from Great Bend to Hutchinson and Wichita as our clients need the services of specialists that are only available in these two cities. Once again, K-96 is the route we travel for the medical needs of our clients.

The last, but not least piece of testimony is the fact that Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc. is one of the Public Transportation providers that will be part of the proposed Coordinated Transportation System providing transportation services for people traveling from Hays to Wichita and each town in between. This is currently proposed as a K-96 route which will potentially serve Hays, Lacrosse, Great Bend, Lyons, Sterling, Hutchinson and Wichita helping people travel to and from Western Kansas to Wichita for a variety of needs.

I respectfully request that you seriously consider completing the K-96 Expansion project for the safety of people who travel from Western Kansas to Wichita for needs they can not satisfy in their communities.

Best Regards

Jon L. Prescott
Executive Director/CEO
Sunflower Diversified Services
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Serving the residents of Rice, Barton, Stafford, Pawnee and Rush Counties

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