



To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
From: Wayne Nelson, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Date: January 24, 2018
Re: Support of SB 285

Chairwoman McGinn and members of the committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 285.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) represents the individual licensed engineers across the state. For over 100 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering by delivering professional development services, encouraging licensure and advocating public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry.

SB 285 would establish the joint legislative transportation task force to meet and make recommendations regarding the needs of the transportation system over the next 10 years and beyond.

KSPE has supported T-WORKS since its inception in 2009, along with preceding programs CTP and CHP, in 1999 and 1989, respectively. The elephant in the room is the nearly two dozen transportation projects that have been canceled in the current TWORKS program because of fund transfers. Although we understand the state's fiscal environment over the last several years, infrastructure safety is essential for our state's development. Our members play very important roles in transportation and infrastructure across the state. We need to bring the stakeholders back to the table to develop a strategy for moving forward.

SB 285 is a step in the right direction. We ask for the committee's support of this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to offer our thoughts on this matter.

Respectfully,

Wayne Nelson, P.E.
President, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers