Written Testimony in Favor of HB 2373
Presented to the House Committee on Transportation
Presented by Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce
March 19, 2019

Chairman Proehl and Honorable Committee Members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation's chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

HB 2373 grants authority to the Sect. of Transportation to begin to lay the groundwork for a new statewide program and the members of the Olathe Chamber strongly support its passage. Commercial investment and job creation in Kansas have been, and continue to be, directly linked to infrastructure investment in Kansas. A key component to the success of Olathe is a viable transportation system. Previous partnerships with the state on funding transportation projects have contributed to significant development within the city limits of Olathe. For example, the funding of prior transportation projects helped fund three different interchanges within our city limits (119th, 135th & 151st St.) – each of which contributed to nearly $1 billion in development.

A continued commitment and investment in the state's transportation infrastructure is essential to the current and future well-being of Kansas and its citizens. If the City of Olathe, as well as many communities in Kansas, are going to keep growing there must be a coordinated, multi-modal transportation program that meets the needs of our thriving Kansas communities.

The Olathe Chamber respectfully requests support of HB 2373.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce