



## **Legislative Update**

**January 27, 2023**

**Economic Lifelines Legislative Update:**

### **Week Three**

Activity under the dome continues to build as the Legislature finishes its third week of session. House and Senate committees began holding bill hearings with dozens more scheduled for the coming weeks. New legislative proposals continue to arrive on the scene, with over 300 bills introduced so far.

Governor Kelly outlined her vision for state at her State of the State address, kicking off her second term. The Governor's stated priorities included workforce development and water investment while also advocating for legalization of medical marijuana and Medicaid expansion.

#### **Alternative Road Usage Revenue**

The House Committee on Transportation received several presentations related to alternative funding options for transportation. The Department of Transportation provided an update on its participation in the Midwest Road Usage Study. To date, twelve states have studied mileage based road usage charges. Three (Oregon, Utah and Virginia) have implemented programs. The Department's report is scheduled to be completed in October 2024.

Additional approaches will be discussed next week. HB 2004, scheduled for a hearing on January 31 in the House Committee on Transportation, proposes to create the EV Energy Equity Road Repair Tax. The bill specifically would add a new tax on electricity distributed at public charging stations.

### **Vehicles Modernization Surcharge**

A pair of legislative bills propose to eliminate the \$4 vehicles modernization surcharge paid at the time vehicles are registered. Since 2013, the \$4 fee has been sent to the State Highway Fund. HB 2148 and SB 90 have both been assigned to their respective transportation committees though no hearings have been scheduled at this time. Economic Lifelines is following these conversations very closely.

### **Transportation Budgets to be Discussed Soon**

As the calendar inches closer to February, budget subcommittees are preparing to review the Governor's budget recommendations and agency requests. Budget leaders have indicated the desire to piece the budget together by the end of next month. The Department of Transportation's budget is one of dozens of agencies and programs that will be reviewed during this time.

### **Just Over One Week Until Transportation Day at the Capitol**

The Economic Lifelines Transportation Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 8. The half-day event will offer an opportunity to hear remarks from the Kansas Department of Transportation and (invited) the Governor's office. There will also be a panel of legislative leaders discussing transportation policy and appropriations.

