

City of Shawnee
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cityofshawnee.org

Date: February 16, 2021
To: Chairman Mike Petersen and Senate Transportation Committee Members
From: City of Shawnee
Re: Written Neutral Testimony with Concern regarding SB 101

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to neutrally testify while expressing concerns regarding SB 101 on behalf of the City of Shawnee.

The City of Shawnee owns and maintains over 20 miles of trails in its system. The system we have worked to build feeds into a system of over 300 miles of multi-use trails that are interconnected across jurisdictional boundaries and throughout Johnson County. Trails are an essential service impacting the quality of life to the citizens of Johnson County and an amenity routinely rated as one of the highest during public surveys. Additionally, over the past year, we have all come to rely on our outdoor recreational opportunities, including the multi-use trail systems.

The concern the City of Shawnee has with SB 101, is, as drafted, its recommendation for the allowance of Class 2 e-bikes on multi-use trails. These series of bikes are operated with an accelerator and not impacted by the use of pedals, like on a traditional bicycle. After a significant amount of public discussion throughout Johnson County, the City of Shawnee, along with our neighboring communities, currently do not allow Class 2 e-bikes on our multi-use trails.

We believe this bill would reduce the City of Shawnee's home-rule authority by removing our ability to control the uses on our multi-use paths and preempts our ability to prohibit the use of Class 2 e-bikes. SB 101 would take away the City of Shawnee's ability to prohibit Class 2 e-bikes where bicycles are currently allowed and imposes a mandated public hearing if the City finds such a restriction is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The City of Shawnee requests the Committee consider this testimony when determining whether or not to advance SB 101 to the full Senate.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Gard
Assistant City Manager



Neil Holman
Parks and Recreation Director