



Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Policy Statement #00.01

Approved 10.29.99, Revised 01.03

Transportation Funding (revised)

KSPE supports the Comprehensive Transportation Program passed by the 1999 Legislature and urges its full implementation. The preceding Comprehensive Highway Program passed by the 1987 Legislature proved to be a tremendous economic development boost for the Kansas economy as documented by research reports from both Kansas State University and Kansas University economists. The effect of CTP on the current troubled state economy is vitally needed. Greater reliance on user fees as opposed to State General Fund transfers should be implemented to avoid the competition with other State obligations and the fluctuation of funding available for the necessary long range commitment for stable project development.

Policy Statement #00.02

Approved 10.29.99, Revised 01.03

Competitive Salaries for Government Engineers Policy Statement #2 (revised)

KSPE supports adequate funding of competitive salaries for state and local government engineers. Growing disparities between private and public engineering salaries are depleting the ranks of experience engineers in important state and local government positions. Failure to provide adequate, competitive salaries will adversely impact the state's ability to deliver the Comprehensive Transportation Program, environmental programs, water resources programs, and other state agency programs and negatively impact the ability of engineers in various agencies to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Kansas' residents.

Policy Statement #00.03

Approved 10.29.99

Importance of Engineering Classifications in State Agencies

KSPE supports the continued employment of licensed Professional Engineers in the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and other pertinent state agencies. KSPE opposes the further elimination of Professional Engineer licensure requirements for state technical and scientific positions where such requirements are important to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of Kansas' residents.

Policy Statement #00.04

Approved 10.29.99

Funding of County Engineers

KSPE supports enforcement of K.S.A. 68-501 requiring the employment of a licensed Professional Engineer as -County Engineer appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and approved by the Secretary of Transportation for each Kansas County. KSPE further recommends the creation of a state-funded incentive program thru the Secretary of Transportation for counties to employ a licensed Professional Engineer as their County Engineer. Such incentive should give fiih financial benefit to counties that employ a full-time employee as their own county engineer as well as a prorated amount for counties that

participate in formation of a district that shares the services of a district county engineer, who is a licensed Professional Engineer. A smaller prorated incentive should be available for counties where a full-time licensed Professional Engineer employee can not be justified and a licensed Professional Engineer employee of a consulting engineer firm is contracted to perform limited county engineering duties.

Policy Statement #00.05
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Sales Tax on Professional Services

KSPE opposes the imposition of state or local sales taxes on the delivery of professional services by engineering, architecture and/or design fees. The majority of such taxes would ultimately fall on public taxpayers, thereby reducing the essential professional services that may be purchased by state and local governments.

Policy Statement #00.06
Approved 01.03

Engineering Education

The engineering profession has become a major drive of the Kansas economy. Engineers create value added jobs in the manufacturing, utilities and service sectors of the Kansas economy, and build and maintain the state's vital infrastructure. Essential to these continuing contributions are the Colleges of Engineering at our state's Regents Institutions. Maintaining high quality teaching and research staff at these institutions is vital to our economic prosperity. Adequate funding of our Regents Institutions is needed to ensure Kansas' schools can hire and retain the high quality engineering college faculty and staff needed to grow the state's economy and maintain essential public services.

Policy Statement #00.07
Approved 01.03

Primary Seat Belt Law

It is an indisputable fact that use of automobile seat belts reduces fatalities and injuries during accidents. Increased use of automobile seat belts will further reduce fatalities and injuries of Kansas' drivers. Enforcement of Kansas' seat belt laws is hampered when the requirement is considered a secondary offense. KSPE supports enactment of legislation that would make seat belt use a primary offense.

Policy Statement #00.15
Approved 01.21.00

Energy Conservation

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers supports the following:

- 1) For older buildings still in use, many of which are owned by Kansas City, County, and State governments, determine if retrofitting techniques such as energy efficient lighting can provide sufficient energy savings to economically justify an energy conservation project be undertaken.
- 2) Continued funding of university and private research to further improve the efficiencies of manufacturing processes, natural gas and electric heating/cooling systems, appliances and lighting.

- 3) Encourage Kansas government officials to take advantage of incentives and grants for energy related projects in the 1992 National Energy Policy Act.
- 4) Promote renewable sources of energy where economically justified.
- 5) Provide for short and long term emergency planning in the state to address future energy shortages and price increases that would impact the state's economy.

Policy Statement #00.16

Approved 01.21.00

Chief Engineer Division of Water Resources

The KSPE recommends that the position of Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources remain a classified position within the State Personnel System. A licensed professional engineer with extensive water resources experience should fill the position. The Chief Engineer should be empowered to provide independent, scientific based, engineering judgements regarding the allocation of the State's water resources based on the application of water appropriations law. The KSPE also supports the continued, adequate funding and staffing of the Division with licensed professional engineers and appropriate technical support staff.

Policy Statement #00.17

Approved 01.21.00

Nutrient Enrichment

Natural conditions of the native soils of Kansas and the nature of our lakes and streams make control of all taste and odor conditions caused by algal production unfeasible because there is enough native phosphorous (P) (which limits algal growth in Kansas waters) present in our surface waters to produce nuisance conditions. However, the use of best management practices to reduce how much P added to surface waters should be used to reduce additional contributions of P to surface water. Nutrient criteria for water quality standards (WQS) should be based on available professionally accepted peer reviewed scientific information.

Policy Statement #00.18

Approved 01.21.00

Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers supports the following:

- 1) A comprehensive program review of the Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan when major events such as changes in state and federal laws occur.
- 2) Continued focus of the Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan to provide updated technical information for use by local solid waste officials to reevaluate their County or Regional Solid Waste Plan.
- 3) The Kansas Solid Waste Plan's continued promotion of recycling, reuse, waste reduction and alternative waste management methods through the plan's grant administration program.

Policy Statement 900.19

Approved 01.21.00

Kansas Water Resources Department

The KSPE supports the formation of a Kansas Water Resources Department as a cabinet level agency. This would provide for the combination of all existing state water programs into a single agency, which would provide for the coordination and implementation of statewide water policies and regulations. The Kansas Water Resources Department would act independently

to implement Kansas water law to ensure the continued availability of the resource, provide for the determination of designated uses, determine equitable allocation among users, and protect the quality of the State's groundwater and surface water resources.