



GILMORE & BELL PC
2405 GRAND BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108-2521

816-221-1000 | 816-221-1018 FAX
GILMOREBELL.COM

June 26, 2018

Mr. Charles F. Soules, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Lawrence
PO Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0708

Re: Main Trafficways

Dear Chuck:

You have inquired about why the City must designate roads as “main trafficways” in order to issue general obligation bonds to finance road improvements.

K.S.A. 12-685 to 12-690 provide authority for the City to issue general obligation bonds to fund road improvements. In particular, K.S.A. 12-689 says that general obligation bonds can be issued for “improvements authorized under the provisions of this Act.” K.S.A. 12-687 says that the City can authorize improvements to main trafficways or trafficway connections. K.S.A. 12-685 describes how those main trafficways must be designated (by ordinance). Thus, K.S.A. 12-685 is the reason why we have to designate main trafficways in order to issue general obligation bonds to fund road improvements. The designation of a road as a main trafficway or trafficway connection does not have any purpose other than to allow the issuance of bonds.

Some other cities in Kansas have adopted a charter ordinance (chartering K.S.A. 13-1024a) that authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for various improvements, including street improvements. They use the charter ordinance as authority for the issuance of general obligation bonds instead of using K.S.A. 12-685 *et seq.* and the main trafficway designation process.

Lawrence’s charter ordinance for K.S.A. 13-1024a (Charter Ordinance 27) does not permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund street improvements. If the governing body would like to consider amending Charter Ordinance 27 to streamline the street financing process, please let us know and we would be happy to provide a draft charter ordinance for the Commission’s consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina M. Riekhof".

Gina M. Riekhof

GMR:hde