

# ECONOMIC LIFELINES ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**TOPEKA, KS** – Economic Lifelines Co-Chair Dan Watkins announced today the hiring of two firms to help lead Economic Lifelines moving forward. Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates along with Kearney & Associates will work in partnership with volunteer leaders in leading Economic Lifelines' efforts.

Scott Heidner will serve as the Executive Director of the organization. Economic Lifelines is the statewide coalition of organizations and community groups which provide the grassroots support for comprehensive transportation programs in Kansas.

“Economic Lifelines’ Executive Committee has closely examined the needs of the association in terms of advocacy, effective grassroots lobbying, and membership growth,” Watkins stated. “Our organization has been an effective advocate for transportation infrastructure for many years, and this new leadership will help us become even more effective moving forward.”

“Having two experienced and well-respected teams working with Economic Lifelines ensures we have access to the stakeholders and individuals who are critical both in helping us get good information to policy makers and helping those policy makers craft legislation to provide the necessary funding for the transportation infrastructure of Kansas,” continued Watkins.

Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates (BHL) is an association management and contract lobbying firm providing services to approximately 40 clients across the country. BHL has a staff of eleven employees in Topeka, Kan., and Jefferson City, Mo., who each specialize in specific functions of association management and government advocacy.

Kearney & Associates, Inc., founded by Steve Kearney in 1993, offering government affairs and association management solutions, recently celebrated its 25th year in business. Kearney & Associates is a full-service governmental affairs firm representing clients in all aspects of governmental interactions, including but not limited to lobbying, procurement matters and administrative relations with state agencies. Kearney & Associates provides counsel to both national and state-level non-profit organizations regarding best practices and the laws impacting exempt organizations as well as offering a full array of association management services.

New Economic Lifelines Executive Director Scott Heidner is the Senior Vice President of BHL and has been a transportation funding advocate for almost 20 years. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas School of Law. He is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Kansas and has served as a volunteer leader to numerous local organizations.

“We are excited to represent Economic Lifelines,” Heidner state. “We look forward to leading and facilitating conversations and policies that will ensure Kansas has the transportation infrastructure it needs and deserves.”

More information about Economic Lifelines can be found at: [www.economiclifelines.com](http://www.economiclifelines.com).