



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*  
**DATE:** March 7, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** State Legislative Session Update

**AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION**

*The purpose of this memorandum is to keep the RTC Board apprised of proposed state legislation.*

**BACKGROUND**

The Washington State Legislature convened for its 2017 session on January 9 and is scheduled to complete its full session on April 23. At the outset of the legislative session, RTC staff began tracking bills that would revise laws that govern transportation funding, planning, and RTC operations.

In addition to monitoring proposed legislation, staff are also assisting Legislators and RTC Member agency staff (and their lobbyists) by providing current information in regards to RTC plans and recommended projects through the Board endorsed Regional Transportation Plan (2014) and current Clark County Transportation Alliance 2017 Policy Statement.

**CURRENT STATUS**

As of this report, RTC staff have been monitoring these bills as summarized below:

Bill #	Summary	Perceived Impact	Status
HB 1222	Would establish a Legislative work group with the express intent of establishing a bi-state process to facilitate planning for replacement of the I-5 bridges over the Columbia River. The bill is presumed to require complimentary legislation in the state of Oregon to create the same such work group.	TBD. Incidental participation may be required as part of stakeholder engagement process.	<b>Did not Pass out of Committee</b>
HB 1147 SB 5096	Transportation Appropriations bill for 2017-2019 Fiscal Biennium	This is the primary funding appropriations bill for WSDOT and also sets in place the funding levels for specific regional projects and regional flexible fund allocations.	<b>In Process</b>

<p>HB 2095 SB 5806</p>	<p>Would revise state statute to make (or create a process) to designate an I-5 bridge replacement project a Project of Statewide Significance; compel the Governor to establish a Legislative Committee, and appropriate funds and direct WSDOT to assess the work products developed to date.</p> <p><i>To date, the bills that passed the House and Senate (respectively) have slight differences. These differences will be worked out in subsequent committee / hearings process(es)</i></p>	<p>TBD. Incidental participation may be required as part of stakeholder engagement process.</p>	<p><b><i>SSB 5806 Passed Senate</i></b></p> <p><b><i>HB 2095 passed House</i></b></p> <p><b><i>SSB 5806 Pending hearing in House Committee</i></b></p>
<p>HB 2066 SB 5649</p>	<p>Would establish criteria for designation of a new Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) in rural WA State.</p>	<p>TBD. The creation of a new RTPO may cause a de minimis funding reduction to formula state planning funds allocated to RTPOs across the state.</p>	<p><b><i>SB 5649 Passed Senate, referred to House</i></b></p>
<p>SB 5254</p>	<p>Would clarify the role of RTPOs in establishing population and employment targets in GMA planning, specifically limiting the scope of authority.</p>	<p>None perceived. RTC's population and employment assumptions are derived from the Clark County GMA assumptions and forecasts.</p>	<p><b><i>SSB 5254 at Ways and Means Committee</i></b></p>

**NEXT STEPS**

RTC staff will continue to monitor proposed bills which are currently or may be introduced during this legislative session. In addition to monitoring, RTC staff will provide information and input to the Board, Legislators, and RTC Member agency staff as requested.