



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MARK*  
**DATE:** May 2, 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 concluded its regular session on April 23. The primary transportation bills (Transportation Operating and Capital budgets) were approved by the Legislature and are awaiting the Governor’s signature. A Special Session of the Legislature was convened by the Governor to address outstanding statewide operating budgets (*non Transportation related*).

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 regard 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 1147 SB 5096	Transportation Appropriations bill for 2017-2019 Fiscal Biennium	Local Impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The final Bill shifts funds from the SR-14 / Camas Slough Bridge project to the SR-14 (I-205 - SE 164<sup>th</sup> Ave) widening project. Funding begins to flow to that project in the 2017-2019 biennium.</li> <li>- Notable Study: funding for a high-speed-rail study from Portland to Vancouver, B.C.</li> </ul>	<b>Passed Legislature</b>  <b>On Governor Desk for Signature</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>TBD. Incidental participation may be required as part of stakeholder engagement process.</p>	<p><b><i>Passed Legislature  On Governor Desk for Signature</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>Passed Legislature  Signed by Governor</i></b></p>

**NEXT STEPS**

With the Legislature’s adoption of the primary transportation policy and transportation operating and capital budgets, the direct involvement in RTC has mostly concluded for this legislative session. Should the remainder of the Legislature’s work on statewide operating budgets and policy bills affect the work of RTC or Board project priorities, then staff will return with an update at a future Board meeting.