



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: February 6, 2018
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 2018 session on January 8 and is scheduled to complete its full session on March 8. 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 2018 Policy Statement.

CURRENT STATUS

As of this report, RTC staff have been monitoring these bills as summarized below. You can access the Bill page by clicking the Bill # hyperlink:

Table with 4 columns: Bill #, Summary, Perceived Impact, Status. Row 1: HB 2352, Would establish a study of all available options and conceptual designs and cost estimates for a bridge or other connection between Southwest Washington and Oregon; west of I-5, - Countywide agencies: potential for conflicts with existing local/countywide GMA plans and policies. - RTC agency: TBD in regards to staffing and or incidental support to study efforts. - RTC Plans: initiates additional study of new corridor options as identified in the RTC Regional Transportation Plan (2014) Appendix I: the Strategic Regional Transportation Plan., No hearings scheduled

<p>SB 6118</p>	<p>Would clarify the work and meeting requirements of the I-5 Columbia River Bridge project, joint legislative action committee. Scope: The revision to RCW 47.01.505 would provide that in-lieu of OR Legislative participation, that the WA Legislative delegates can continue to meet and conduct their business in accordance with the requirements of statute.</p>	<p>- RTC agency: TBD in regards to staffing and or incidental support to study efforts. - RTC Plans: actions related to advancing the replacement of the I-5 Columbia River bridges are consistent with implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (2014).</p>	<p>Passed Senate Transportation Committee. In Senate Rules Committee</p>
<p>HB 2646 SB 6195</p>	<p>Would create new criteria and processes for designation and facilitation of transportation projects of statewide significance.</p>	<p>- Countywide agencies: would establish a process for local agencies to endorse and provide local resources to support implementation of the transportation project of statewide significance. - RTC agency: RTC would be included in local agencies of interest upon a project designation, and may be asked to support project implementation activities. - RTC Plans: Designation of the I-5 Columbia River bridge replacement as a transportation project of statewide significance is consistent with Board Resolution 02-17-03.</p>	<p>Passed Senate Transportation Committee. In Senate Rules Committee</p>
<p>HB 1075 SB 6090 & SB 6095</p>	<p>Would establish a state capital budget and designated project appropriations (contingent upon approval of bonding authority).</p>	<p>- Countywide agencies: several RTC agencies are awaiting passage of the Capital Budget to advance needed regional infrastructure improvements. - RTC Plans: several projects contained in the Capital Budget would advance implementation of needed regional infrastructure.</p>	<p>Bills Approved, Signed by Governor</p>
<p>SB 6186</p>	<p>Would establish a new requirement under GMA for counties and cities to monitor population growth annually, produce a growth monitoring report</p>	<p>RTC agency: impacts are uncertain beyond incidental additional work and staffing commitments; only if</p>	<p>No hearings scheduled.</p>

	<p>annually, and amend their GMA Plan if certain growth related criteria are met.</p> <p>The Bill would also compel Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (like RTC) to amend the Regional Transportation Plan to reflect county and city related amendments.</p>	<p>county/city GMA plans are amended, triggering Regional Transportation Plan amendments.</p>	
<p><u>Governor's proposed WSDOT Operating Budget</u></p>	<p>Includes a recommendation to increase the annual operating budget for the <i>statewide</i> Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) program by \$500,000 (annually and recurring). <i>These funds are distributed to RTPO programs statewide, based on pre-existing formula.</i></p>	<p>RTC agency: If approved, a portion of this operating budget increase would flow to RTC, and would supplement current grant funds provided by WSDOT to fund the RTPO programs and services. Currently, the RTPO program funding represents roughly 8.6% of the YR 2018 RTC operating revenue.</p>	<p>Pending Committee hearings (House and Senate)</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.