

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

January 13, 2006

2006 State of the State Address

As the 47th Arizona Legislature convened for the Second Regular Session, Governor Janet Napolitano delivered her State of the State address, which focused primarily on education, increased border security, efforts to address illegal immigration, support for the "Conserving Arizona's Future" initiative, strategic tax reductions to stimulate the economy and increases in teacher and state employee compensation.

As anticipated, the Governor did not address issues relating to transportation and public transportation. However, a segment of the speech was dedicated to reductions in the Vehicle License Tax with special incentives for fuel efficient vehicles.

Week in Review

The House and Senate Committees on Transportation did not hold committee meetings during the first week of the legislative session.

As announced during the Arizona Transit Association's Legislative Conference in December 2005, Senator Verschoor and Representative Andy Biggs have agreed to sponsor

legislation on behalf of AzTA that would make it permissible for public transit systems to provide service along state routes in rural Arizona, under specific conditions. Such restrictions include, but are limited to, the roadway's posted speed limit does not exceed 45 MPH, the transit vehicle is clearly marked as a public transportation vehicle and stops at a designated and marked location. The legislation also requires that bus pullouts or other efforts be used to avoid impeding traffic along the state route.

The legislation is expected to be introduced next week and will be reflected in the next AzTA Weekly Legislative Report.

Communities that may benefit from this legislation are encouraged to contact Stuart Goodman in order to coordinate support for the legislation.

A Preview for the Week Ahead

While the House and Senate Committees on Transportation are both meeting the week of January 16th, no legislation relating to public transportation is currently scheduled.

A presentation of tribal transportation related issues is scheduled for the Senate Committee on Transportation on Tuesday, January 17th at 1:30 p.m.

Comments

Please contact Stuart Goodman at 602-277-0911 or sgoodman@goodmanschwartz.com.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

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BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2332	appropriations; highway monies; repayment	McClure and (2)	As introduced, appropriates \$52,215,300 in FY 2006-2007 from the state general fund to the Highway Users Revenue Fund for payment of monies diverted in FY 2004-2005.			awaiting committee assignment

