

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

January 18, 2008

Public Transportation Receives Significant Attention in the Governor's State of the State Address

For the first time in recent memory, public transportation was figured prominently in a gubernatorial State of the State Address.

Specifically, Governor Napolitano's comments recognized that transit options must be represented in any future statewide transportation program. Likewise, in addition to offering support for a commuter rail project from Tucson-to-Phoenix, the Governor advocated for more local transit in order to support a robust rail element.

Consistent with the Governor's remarks, in her proposed budget plan to address the FY 2008 revenue shortfall, which is presently estimated to be approximately \$1 billion, the Governor's plan maintained the existing statutory formula for the Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF II).

This is significant given that previous legislative proposals recommended a complete suspension of the LTAF II program in both FY 2008 and 2009. Accordingly, the Governor's support for public transportation has been visible in both her public comments as well as her policy initiatives.

Senate President Announces Entry into Congressional Race

As anticipated, Senate President Tim Bee announced that he will be candidate for Congress, attempting to replace incumbent Congresswoman Gabby Giffords.

President Bee will continue serving in the Arizona State Senate during the campaign, representing his Southern Arizona legislative district.

President Bee's continued service in the Senate is considered to be positive for public transportation proponents, given his leadership position along with his historical support of the LTAF II program.

A Preview for the Week Ahead

The week of January 22nd will be dedicated to working on the FY 2009 budget, which is approaching a revenue shortfall of approximately \$2 billion. All agencies supported by the General Fund are expected to experience reductions in appropriations in order to address the state's increasing fiscal concerns.

Comments

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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

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BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2043	air quality; idling; study committee	Robson	As introduced, establishes a 13 member Vehicle Idling Study Committee to consider the issues involved in developing a program to reduce the amount of pollution caused by unnecessary diesel engine idling. The Committee is required to examine possible measures relating to cars, buses, trucks and mobile equipment. The Committee is repealed on October 1, 2009.	Environment, Rules		committee assignment, 1/14
HB 2049	ADOT rule revisions	McClure	As introduced, removes the ability for the State Transportation Board to adopt rules relating to priority programs, construction contracts, revenue bonds and local government airport grants. Removes the ability for the director of ADOT to adopt rules for the application for and the expenditure of all public transit monies and rules for the expenditure of monies in the State Highway Fund. Repeals statutes relating to the Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact.	Transportation, Rules		committee assignment, 1/14
HB 2133	transportation districts	Rios P	As introduced, states if after January 1, 2009, a county attains a population of 500,000 or more, a new transportation district will be formed consisting of that county.			awaiting committee assignment
HB 2164	regional transportation authorities	Prezelski (2)	As introduced, allows a transportation authority to be established in any county that is a member of a regional council of governments. Allows a regional transportation authority to levy a transportation excise tax if approved in a county wide election.	Transportation, Counties and Municipalities, Rules		committee assignment, 1/16



BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HCR 2001	highway user revenue fund uses	Chad Campbell	As introduced, subject to voter approval at the next general election, amends the state constitution to state that HURF revenues shall be used for "transportation" purposes instead of "highway and street" purposes.	Transportation, Counties and Municipalities, Rules		committee assignment, 1/14
SB 1039	HOV lanes; restricted hours	Harper	As introduced, codifies in statute the HOV restricted times - between 5 and 9 am and between 3 and 7 pm.		Transportation, Rules	committee assignment, 1/14
SB 1041	HOV lane usage; hybrids	Harper	As introduced, allows hybrid vehicles in HOV lanes if the vehicle has at least 45% fuel efficiency in combined city-highway fuel economy.		Transportation, Rules	committee assignment, 1/14
SB 1042	toll roads; ADOT; private entity	Harper	As introduced, requires ADOT to issue an RFP for Construction of a toll road beginning at the Loop 303 and 75th avenue and ending in Prescott by December 31, 2009. ADOT must award the contract by the end of 2010. Removes the requirement that a reasonable alternative route must exist.		Transportation, Rules	committee assignment, 1/14