

**WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Arizona Transit Association

February 9, 2007

**Week in Review**

**SB 1585**, relating to the conversion of HOV lanes, was held in the Senate Committee on Transportation.

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**SB 1591**, relating to light rail performance audits, passed out of the Senate Committee on Transportation with a 3-2 vote.

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**HB 2682**, relating to a blue ribbon transportation committee, passed out of the House Committee on Transportation with a 9-1 vote.

The legislation establishes that the Blue Ribbon Transportation Committee is required to make recommendations for legislative consideration of “road planning, highway financing and traffic safety” during the 2008 legislative session.

AzTA testified that legislation is too narrow and does not allow for the consideration of “public transportation” to be an element of the committee’s 2008 legislative recommendations.

While the bill sponsor, Rep. Andy Biggs, responded that the committee would be allowed to consider public transportation related issues, there was no commitment to an amendment clarifying the actual text of the bill to explicitly add “public transportation” to the menu of issues to be considered by the committee.

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**HB 2570**, relating to rail right-of-way acquisition, passed out of the House Committee on Transportation with a 9-0 vote.

**A Preview for the Week Ahead**

**SB 1585**, relating to the conversion of HOV lanes, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Committee on Transportation on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

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**SB 1635**, relating to FAST lanes, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Committee on Transportation on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

**Comments**

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# LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

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BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2131	development fees; public transportation	Farley (6)	As introduced, allows municipalities and counties to assess development fees to offset the costs of public transportation.	Counties and Municipalities, Ways and Means, Rules		committee assignment, 1/16
HB 2570	railroad right-of-way acquisition	Biggs	As introduced, on the approval of the State Transportation Board, the Arizona Department of Transportation shall use the monies from a designated fund to acquire a railroad right-of-way to accommodate future freight or passenger rail service. \$650,000 is available for the purchase of such right-of-way.	Transportation, Appropriations, Rules		passed, House Transportation, 2/8
HB 2682	blue ribbon transportation committee	Biggs	As introduced, establishes a legislative committee to review reports on transportation and make recommendations on which legislative issues relating to transportation should be addressed in the next legislative session. The issues shall include road planning, highway financing alternatives and road safety.	Transportation, Rules		passed, House Transportation, 2/8
SB 1161	HOV lanes; motorcycles; buses	Tibshraeny	As introduced, clarifies existing state law to allow unoccupied public transportation buses and motorcycles to use the HOV at all times. Consistent with federal law that governs the construction and use of federally funded HOV lanes.		Transportation, Rules	passed Senate 27-0, 2/1



BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
SB 1585	HOV lane conversion; toll lane	Gould (2)	As introduced, requires the Department of Transportation, by November 15, 2012, to issue a request for proposals for the conversion of HOV lanes on Interstate 17 between Loop 101 and Interstate 10 into a high occupancy toll lane. Allows ADOT to issue an RFP for the conversion of the HOV lanes on any other highway in this state into a high occupancy toll lane by November 15, 2012.		Transportation, Rules	held, Senate Transportation, 2/6
SB 1591	performance audits; light rail	Gould (1)	As introduced, states that if the light rail system is not completed on or before January 1, 2009, a separate performance audit shall be conducted twelve months after the minimum operating system is open. Requires the Auditor General to contract with a nationally recognized independent auditor with expertise in evaluating multimodal transportation systems and in regional transportation planning to conduct the performance audit. Requires the costs of the audit to be paid from revenues of the county transportation excise tax.		Transportation, Rules	passed, Senate Transportation, 2/6
SB 1610	highway expansion; extension loan program	Tibshraeny	As introduced, makes transit capital projects eligible for the Highway Expansion and Extension Program. Also makes transit capital purposes under the Federal SIB Act eligible for the Program. Transit capital purposes is defined to mean eligible land, buildings or rolling stock or a combination of eligible land, buildings and rolling stock that is part of the federal Transit Administration's Rural Public Transportation Program for municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 persons.		Transportation, Rules	committee assignment, 2/1
SB 1635	FAST lanes	Gorman (1)	As introduced, requires the Department of Transportation, notwithstanding any other law, to issue a request for proposal by July 1, 2008, to private entities for the purpose of entering into a		Transportation, Rules	committee assignment, 2/1

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
			<p>contract with a private entity for the conversion of an existing HOV lane to a freeway acceleration and sensible transportation (FAST) lane, for the purpose of constructing new FAST lanes and for the purpose of entering into contracts for the operation of the FAST lanes by private entities. Allows the Department to convert, construct or operate or both convert and operate or construct and operate the FAST lane if no proposal by a private entity is acceptable. States a FAST lane is a lane for use by drivers of vehicles carrying fewer than two persons in a HOV lane who pay a specified fee. A person may operate a motorcycle in a FAST lane without paying a specified fee unless prohibited by official traffic control devices. The Department is prohibited from entering into a contract for the conversion of a HOV lane to a FAST lane if the conversion will result in the loss or refund of federal funds for construction, reconstruction, repairs, improvement, planning, supervision and maintenance of the state highway system and other public highways. Requires the Department to structure a variable fee to ensure unrestricted access to the lanes at all times by eligible vehicles, including buses, vehicles carrying more than one person, environmental protection agency certified low-emitting vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating over ten thousand pounds and alternative fuel vehicles that have been issued alternative fuel vehicle special plates or alternative fuel vehicle stickers.</p>			