

**GOODMAN ▪ SCHWARTZ**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Arizona Transit Association

March 19, 2004

**Week in Review**

**HB 2507**, relating to the establishment of a regional transportation authority in Pima County, passed out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation with a 6-0 vote.

**A Preview for the Week Ahead**

There are no public transportation related bills scheduled for the week beginning on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Comments**

Please contact Stuart Goodman at 602-277-0911.

# LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

March 19, 2004

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2376	transportation excise tax; bifurcated election	Gray C. and (8)	As introduced, HB 2376 requires the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to call and conduct a countywide special election on November 2, 2004 for the levy of a transportation excise tax beginning in 2006. HB 2376 mandates that the ballot language presenting the question to the voters of whether to authorize the transportation excise tax require the voter to choose one of three options: (a) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes including a light rail system; (b) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes excluding a light rail system; or (c) rejection of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes.	Transportation, Rules		failed, House Transportation 1-9, 1/19
HB 2456	transportation excise tax; election	Pierce and (44)	As introduced, HB 2456 is the legislation supported by the coalition of public and private sector stakeholders. Major provisions include: Authorizes an election on May 18, 2004 to establish a twenty-year transportation excise tax in Maricopa County. Deposits the tax proceeds into three mode classifications and prohibits shifting revenues between modes. The revenue splits are: regional freeways and state highways (56.2%), major arterial streets and intersection improvements (10.5%) and public transportation (33.3%). Defines public transportation as bus, bus rapid transit, dial-a ride, special needs transportation, vanpools and light rail services.	Transportation, Rules		signed by Governor, Chapter 2

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
			<p>The definition of public transportation system includes High-Occupancy-Vehicle (HOV) lanes and ramps, bus pullout lanes, bus and light rail waiting facilities, park and ride parking lots, intelligent transportation systems and ridesharing promotion. Requires the Auditor General to contract for an independent performance audit beginning in 2010 and every fifth year thereafter of regional transportation projects scheduled for funding. Prescribes audit performance factors, including a review of past expenditures and an examination of the system in relieving congestion and improving mobility. Prescribes a review and amendment process including a vote by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS), the State Board of Transportation (STB) and the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) pertaining to audit findings regarding unwarranted projects and major amendment proposals. Disapproval of a proposed major amendment by either the BOS, STB or RPTA will require a “super-majority” affirmative vote of the TPC (17 of the 23 TPC members) to override the objection of either the BOS, STB or RPTA. Authorizes the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint the six TPC members representing business interests. Requires reimbursement of costs incurred by utilities for the relocation of utility facilities directly resulting from the construction and operation of a light rail project, and preserves the prior or existing rights of the utility. Includes further definition of future corridors identified in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study for right-of-way preservation, and to provide the STB with information to consider these corridors for</p>			

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
			adoption into the state highway system by December 31, 2008. Contains an Emergency Clause requiring a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senate and House of Representatives for a May 18, 2004 election.			
HB 2479	transportation excise tax	Prezelski and (6)	Summary pending.	Transportation, Rules		House committee assignment, 2/2
HB 2489	transportation excise tax; no rail	Biggs and (8)	As introduced, HB 2489 requires the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to call and conduct a countywide special election on May 18, 2004 for the levy of a transportation excise tax beginning in 2006. HB 2489 does not contain any provisions that allow for expenditure of the transportation excise tax for light rail transportation systems. In addition HB 2489 excludes the term light rail from the definition of public transportation and public transportation system, and deletes provisions pertaining to light rail in ARS section 48-5121, pertaining to the Regional Public Transportation System Plan.	Transportation, Rules		failed, House Transportation 1-10, 1/19
HB 2507	regional transportation authority; excise tax	Huffman and Pima County Delegation	As introduced, the legislation would grant Pima County with similar authority that Maricopa County has in terms of regional transportation planning.	Transportation, Rules	Natural Resources and Transportation, Finance, Rules	Passed, Senate NRT 6-0, 3/16
HB 2698	light rail; utilities relocation costs	Johnson and (11)	As introduced, the legislation would prohibit utilities from being reimbursed by the half-cent transportation sales tax for costs associated with the relocation of infrastructure associated with light rail. In addition, the legislation also provides guidance to the Arizona Corporation Commission that it shall exclude such related costs from the rate bases of public service corporations.	Transportation, Commerce & Military Affairs, Appropriations, Rules		House committee assignment, 2/16

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
SB 1074	transportation excise tax; election.	Blendu and (13)	As introduced, As introduced, SB 1074 requires the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to call and conduct a countywide special election on November 2, 2004 for the levy of a transportation excise tax beginning in 2006. SB 1074 mandates that the ballot language presenting the question to the voters of whether to authorize the transportation excise tax require the voter to choose one of three options: (a) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes including a light rail system; (b) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes excluding a light rail system; or (c) rejection of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes.		Finance, Natural Resources and Transportation, Appropriations, Rules	substituted for HB 2456
SB 1082	transportation excise tax; bifurcated election.	Verschoor and (11)	As introduced, SB 1082 requires the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to call and conduct a countywide special election on November 2, 2004 for the levy of a transportation excise tax beginning in 2006. SB 1082 mandates that the ballot language presenting the question to the voters of whether to authorize the transportation excise tax require the voter to choose one of three options: (a) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes including a light rail system; (b) authorization of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes excluding a light rail system; or (c) rejection of a sales tax for regional transportation purposes.		Finance, Natural Resources and Transportation, Appropriations, Rules	failed, Senate COW 8-13, 1/29
SB 1145	regional transportation authority; excise tax.	Bee and the Pima County Delegation	As introduced, the legislation would grant Pima County with similar authority that Maricopa County has in terms of regional transportation planning.		Finance, Natural Resources and Transportation, Appropriations, Rules	passed, Senate Rules, 2/16