

GOODMAN ▪ SCHWARTZ
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 2, 2004

A Preview for the Week Ahead

There are no public transportation related bills scheduled for the week beginning on April 5th.

Comments

Please contact Stuart Goodman at 602-277-0911.

Anti-Light Rail Organization Announces Opposition

Voters Opposing Tax Extension (VOTE) announced its formation and opposition to the upcoming November election to extend the existing transportation sales tax in Maricopa County. The group will focus its efforts on speaking engagements and a website, www.votenotax.com.

Week in Review

HB 2507, relating to the establishment of a regional transportation authority in Pima County, passed out of the Senate Committee on Finance with a 6-1 vote.

HB 2626, relating to the acceleration of county transportation agreements, passed out of the Senate Committee of the Whole and is ready for Third Reading in the Senate.

This legislation is needed to implement the Arizona Department of Transportation's Regional Transit Connector Service (RTCS). The RTCS program will provide pilot transit routes in the following areas: Green Valley to Tucson, Ajo to Phoenix, "Van Go" system in Flagstaff and an additional route in the Yuma County area.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 2, 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 a November 2004 election 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	Transportation, Rules		signed by Governor, Chapter 2

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			<p>ride, special needs transportation, vanpools and light rail services. 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</p>			

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			preservation, and to provide the STB with information to consider these corridors for adoption into the state highway system by December 31, 2008.			
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 Finance 6-1, 3/29
HB 2626	county transportation; acceleration agreements.	Mason and (12)	Clarifies that counties may enter into agreements with the Arizona Department of Transportation to advance monies to accelerate eligible transportation projects.	Public Institutions and Counties, Transportation, Rules	Natural Resources and Transportation, Rules	passed Senate COW, 4/1
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	Transportation, Commerce & Military Affairs, Appropriations, Rules		House committee assignment, 2/16

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			provides guidance to the Arizona Corporation Commission that it shall exclude such related costs from the rate bases of public service corporations.			
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

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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