



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: January 27, 2015
SUBJECT: Legislative Session Update

AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to keep the RTC Board apprised of proposed state legislation.

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Legislature convened for its 2015 session on January 12 and is scheduled to complete its regular session on April 26. At the outset of the legislative session, RTC staff began tracking various bills that would raise new transportation revenue or revise laws that govern transportation funding, planning, and RTC operations. In addition to monitoring proposed legislation, staff are also assisting Legislators and RTC Member agency staff (and their lobbyists) by providing current information in regards to RTC plans and recommended project packages.

CURRENT STATUS

As of this report, no new transportation revenue bills have been formally introduced by either legislative chamber (Senate or House) or the Governor. However, beginning with the Governor’s draft transportation revenue bill proposal (December 2014), staff is aware that there are ongoing discussions among the respective chambers and Governor in relation to the scope, composition, and project lists that might be introduced in conjunction with a long-awaited new transportation revenue bill.

As of this report, RTC staff have been monitoring three bills introduced in the Senate, which do have a substantive impact on RTC operations, Board composition, and which could impact RTC’s operating revenues. The proposed Bills are summarized below.

Bill #	Summary	Perceived Impact	Status
SB 5196	Would restrict allocation of State funds for RTPO planning purposes to any RTPO that also receives Federal funds in the same biennium. Directly affects organizations that serve both MPO and RTPO functions.	Reduced state operating grant to RTC of approximately \$345,000 (\$172,500 year) for the 16-17 Biennium.	No Hearing Date Set

Bill #	Summary	Perceived Impact	Status
SB 5199	Would revise Statute to remove non-Washington Board members as Full Voting members of RTPPO Policy Boards.	Directly affects 2 current RTC Board members voting privileges for RTPPO purposes only. Does not affect MPO Board membership or voting privileges.	Public Hearing held 1-26-15
SB 5200	Would add senior Legislator from each RTPPO legislative district as Full Voting members of the RTPPO Policy Board. Legislative members are not considered in determination of a quorum.	Would add 5 new Full Voting members to the RTPPO Policy Board.	No Hearing Date Set

Note: Additional materials and bill updates will be made available at the RTC Board meeting, if more current than those published with this memorandum.

NEXT STEPS

RTC staff will continue to monitor proposed bills which are currently or may be introduced during this legislative session. In addition to monitoring, RTC staff will provide information and input to the Board, Legislators, and RTC Member agency staff as requested and will provide testimony as appropriate to legislative hearings which advance the interests of current RTC Board policy.