



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Legislative Fiscal Bureau Conference Room
Madison, Wisconsin

March 4, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the March 4, 2009 meeting of the Special Committee on Regional Transportation Authority. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Robson called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Judy Robson, Chair; Reps. Al Ott, Jeff Stone, and Barbara Toles; Sen. John Lehman; and Public Members Larry Arft, Len Brandrup, Gerald Derr, Brett Geboy, Dick Granchalek, Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Tim Hanna, Richard Johnson, Chuck Kamp, Scott McDonell, Delora Newton, Brian Ohm, Fritz Ruf, Dick Wagner, and Tom Walker.

COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED: Representative Robin Vos.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Scott Grosz and Larry Konopacki, Staff Attorneys.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Meeting

Fritz Ruf moved, seconded by Larry Arft, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

***ATTENTION:** This was the final meeting of the Special Committee on Regional Transportation Authority. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding these Minutes to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these Minutes will be considered approved by the committee.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

Chair Robson welcomed the members of the committee and explained that Legislative Council staff had prepared two drafts for committee review, WLC: 0063/1 and Substitute Amendment 1 to WLC: 0063/1. Scott Grosz described Memo. No. 4., which lists the changes to the previous version of the committee's draft legislation included in the two new drafts. Chair Robson opened up committee discussion. The committee agreed to incorporate a number of amendments into the substitute amendment, including provisions to:

- Allow the admission of additional political subdivisions into an existing regional transit authority (RTA) by vote of the RTA board rather than affirmative votes by each of the existing participating political subdivisions of the RTA.
- Dissolve an RTA by vote of the RTA board rather than by the vote of the majority of the participating political subdivisions of the RTA.
- For a county that wishes to designate a countywide or MPA-based county jurisdictional area, require the county to obtain the consent of a tribal government that is operating a transit system in the proposed county jurisdictional area.
- Require a county to affirmatively act within 45 days to withhold its approval of a municipality joining or forming an RTA, and require the county to have completed a transit plan for an RTA within 18 months.
- De-couple the scope of an RTA's taxing authority from the RTA's transit plan, clarify that an RTA may be limited in the initial rate of taxation it may impose, clarify that the resolution creating an RTA may refer to a new or previously approved transit plan, and require an RTA to update its transit plan every five years.
- Revise the definition of "transit system" to include illustrative references to fixed guideway transit, ridesharing, and specialized transportation.

Chair Robson moved, seconded by Representative Ott, to adopt Substitute Amendment 1 to WLC: 0063/1, as amended. The motion passed by a vote of Ayes, 16 (Sen. Robson; Reps. Ott and Toles; and Public Members Arft, Brandrup, Geboy, Granchalek, Gulotta-Connelly, Hanna, Johnson, Kamp, Newton, Ohm, Ruf, Wagner, and Walker); Noes, 2 (Sen. Lehman and Public Member Derr); and Absent, 3 (Reps. Stone and Vos; and Public Member McDonell).

Chair Robson moved, seconded by Representative Ott, to recommend passage of WLC: 0063/1, as amended, to the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed by a vote of Ayes, 16 (Sen. Robson; Reps. Ott and Toles; and Public Members Arft, Brandrup, Geboy, Granchalek, Gulotta-Connelly, Hanna, Johnson, Kamp, Newton, Ohm, Ruf, Wagner, and Walker); Noes, 2 (Sen. Lehman and Public Member Derr); and Absent, 3 (Reps. Stone and Vos; and Public Member McDonell).

Chair Robson and others thanked the other committee members and staff. Legislative Council staff described the steps in the legislative process for the committee's bill, including engrossing the amendments, presenting an engrossed bill to the Joint Legislative Council, and referral of the bill to standing committee in the Legislature for review. Staff also noted opportunities for committee member involvement as the bill moves through this process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

SG:ksm