

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage, With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Boone, Edwards D., Gilman, Kahl, Schaufler, Weidner, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/20, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the issuance of lottery bonds to finance an extension of the bus rapid transit system in west Eugene. Creates a West Eugene EmX Extension Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the Department of Administrative Services for use in financing the costs incurred by the Lane Transit District for establishing the West Eugene EmX Extension. Declares an emergency and takes effect July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Features of bus rapid transit
- Priority for district and city leaders
- Existing funding sources for Lane Transit District
- Nationwide increase in transit usage

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Sets triggers for the distribution of bond proceeds during biennia beginning July 1, 2009 (\$1.6 million), July 1, 2011 (\$8.4 million), and July 1, 2013 (\$20 million). Substitutes Department of Administrative Services, with consultation from Department of Transportation, for Economic and Community Development Department as state entity responsible for distribution of funds.

BACKGROUND: Lane Transit District began operation in 1970 with a total fleet of 18 buses and two vans. Today it boasts an annual ridership of 11.8 million riders and 342 budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Since 2001 the district has been developing bus rapid transit (BRT) as a regional transit option for the district, Eugene, Springfield and Lane County. The first corridor, connecting downtown Eugene and downtown Springfield, includes dedicated bus lanes through 60 percent of its route, allowing the buses to operate even in high traffic conditions. BRT buses include doors on both sides of the vehicle for quick and easy level boarding, and the buses operate out of accessible stations.

Two extension projects for the Lane Transit BRT system (known as Emerald Express, or EmX) are currently in development. The first will extend the service to the Gateway area in north Springfield; 93 percent (\$38 million) of the funding for the Gateway extension is funded by federal and state capital grants. The second, known as the West Eugene EmX Extension, would extend into west Eugene.

House Bill 2396-A authorizes issuance of \$30 million in lottery bonds and allocation of those moneys from a West Eugene EmX Extension Fund to the Department of Administrative Services to help finance the cost of implementing the West Eugene EmX extension. Bonds will be issued over three biennia, beginning July 1, 2009.