75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 944 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Rep. Holvey

House Committee on Transportation

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 8 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Bentz, Berger, Boone, Gilman, Kahl, Schaufler, Weidner, Beyer

Navs: 0

Exc.: Bailey, Edwards D.

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/15, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Lane County governing board to develop a proposed charter for the formation of an area commission on transportation for Lane County. Outlines requirements for proposal. Specifies a completion deadline of September 30, 2010, and directs the county to report to appropriate interim legislative committees by October 31, 2010. Directs the Department of Transportation to provide staff support for the development and submission of the proposed charter. Stipulates that proposed charter may not be rejected based on composition of membership and directs Oregon Transportation Commission to schedule meeting with governing body of Lane County, local elected officials and transportation stakeholders to discuss proposed charter.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Smaller rural communities seeking greater representation on transportation issues
- History of area commissions on transportation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds requirements for proposed charter, including: a description of the criteria to be used in prioritizing project selection and statement of expectations for feedback from the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC); a description of the conflict resolution process to be used; and a plan for regular and consistent communication and coordination among adjacent area commissions and metropolitan planning organizations. Stipulates that if the proposal includes a process for establishing membership, terms of office, and voting procedures consistent with policy guidelines, OTC may not reject the proposed charter based on the composition of its membership. Directs OTC to schedule a meeting with the governing body of Lane County, local elected officials and transportation stakeholders to discuss the proposed charter.

BACKGROUND: Area commissions on transportation (ACTs) are advisory bodies chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to address all aspects of transportation, including surface, marine, air, and transportation safety. ACTs focus primarily on the state system, but also consider regional and local transportation issues as they affect the state system, and work with other local organizations in relation to transportation issues. ACTs play a key advisory role in the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by establishing a public process for area project selection priorities for the STIP.

There are currently ten ACTs: Northwest Oregon (Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, and western rural Washington counties, established 1999); Mid-Willamette Valley (Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, 1997); Cascades West (Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties, 1998); South West (Coos, Curry and Douglas counties, 2000); Rogue Valley (Jackson and Josephine counties, 1997); Lower John Day (Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler and Wasco counties, 1999); Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, 1998); South Central Oregon (Klamath and Lake counties, 1999); North East (Morrow, Baker, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, 2002); and South East (Grant, Harney and Malheur counties, 2000).

Lane County and the Portland metropolitan area have elected not to establish ACTs. In Lane County, the Department of Transportation has worked with the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Policy Committee and the Lane County Board of Commissioners to coordinate transportation project planning and construction.