

SB 1020 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Transportation to enter into a grant agreement with Lane Transit District to fund bus rapid transit and high-capacity transit systems. Appropriates \$30 million from the General Fund to the Department for purposes of the grant agreement. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

NOTE: MEASURE HAS SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO JOINT WAYS AND MEANS

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Replaces General Fund allocation with \$30 million in net proceeds from lottery bonds. Provides legislative findings. Establishes a Lane Transit District Expansion Fund and appropriates moneys from the Fund to Department to issue grants to Lane Transit District.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

Lane Transit District (LTD) was established in 1970 with 18 buses and two vans; today LTD operates a fleet of over 100 buses, serving the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan areas, including Coburg, Junction City, Cresswell, Cottage Grove, Veneta and Lowell.

In addition to its regular fixed-route bus routes, LTD operates Emerald Express (EmX) bus rapid transit (BRT) lines from downtown Eugene to downtown Springfield, and from downtown Springfield to the Gateway in north Springfield. The agency is also analyzing options for expanding the BRT service into west Eugene.

Bus rapid transit generally operates on road lanes dedicated to buses and given priority at road intersections. The vehicles themselves are designed for ease of boarding and deboarding and are made to operate similarly to light rail trains with greater flexibility and lower cost.