

**HB 2101 - H AMD 752**  
By Representative Simpson

1           Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3           "NEW SECTION.       **Sec. 1.**       (1) In 2006, the regional  
4 transportation commission was created and tasked with evaluating  
5 transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region and  
6 directed to develop options for a new regional transportation  
7 governance proposal.       The commission's 2006 report to the  
8 legislature strongly recommended creating a regional governance  
9 entity that has authority over the planning, prioritizing, and  
10 funding of regional transportation projects in the area.

11           (2) The existing approach to transportation governance could be  
12 strengthened and improved to provide a more coordinated approach to  
13 maintaining the state's and region's transportation infrastructure,  
14 as well as providing for road and transit capacity in the region.  
15 Increased regional coordination also provides benefits for planning  
16 and funding the region's transportation system.

17           (3) While establishing a regional governance authority may help  
18 streamline decision making, reduce congestion, and integrate  
19 multimodal transportation planning and prioritization in the  
20 region, such an undertaking is complex. It is in the state's  
21 interest that any legislation that may be necessary to create a  
22 regional authority and implement sweeping changes to existing  
23 transportation governance structures should be carefully,  
24 deliberately, and thoughtfully considered in order to protect  
25 existing investments in transportation and to avoid unintended  
26 consequences. There is considerable value in preserving that which  
27 is working well and in continuing to examine relevant  
28 implementation issues related to the establishment of a regional  
29 governance authority.

30           (4) A more unified regional transportation governance structure  
31 in the central Puget Sound region may result in improved planning,  
32 funding, and prioritization of roads and transit systems, and would

1 better meet the current and future transportation needs of the  
2 state.

3 (5) It is imperative that transportation improvements that are  
4 being implemented in the Puget Sound region through the combined  
5 efforts of the transportation partnership act, the nickel package,  
6 and the Sound Move projects, and the progress being made on the  
7 joint roads and transit package required by the legislature in  
8 2006, should be preserved and supported to avoid delays and  
9 additional cost, and to maintain public confidence.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint transportation committee  
11 shall convene a regional transportation governance task force. The  
12 task force shall submit recommendations to the legislature and the  
13 governor regarding the implementation of a phased-in restructuring  
14 of transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region,  
15 such that a regional authority may be established with authority to  
16 plan, prioritize, and fund all modes of regional transportation  
17 projects and services. The central mission of the task force is to  
18 recommend to the legislature and the governor a process, including  
19 legislation, that implements, and is consistent with,  
20 recommendation 6 from the blue ribbon commission on transportation,  
21 dated December 2000: "Provide regions with the ability to plan,  
22 select, fund, and implement (or contract for the implementation of)  
23 projects identified to meet the region's transportation and land  
24 use goals."

25 (2) The task force must be composed of the following  
26 individuals:

27 (a) Eight legislative members chosen by the co-chairs of the  
28 joint transportation committee, to include two members from each  
29 major caucus of the legislature. The co-chairs shall designate the  
30 chair of the task force;

31 (b) The governor, or the governor's designee;

32 (c) The county executive, or chair of the county legislative  
33 authority, as appropriate, of King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap  
34 counties;

35 (d) The executive director of the puget sound regional council,  
36 or his designee; and

37 (3) The chief executive officer of Sound Transit, or her  
38 designee.

1 (3) In developing its recommendations, the task force shall:

2 (a) Examine the impacts of a regional authority on the central  
3 Puget Sound region and make recommendations to the legislature and  
4 governor regarding the appropriate responsibilities for a regional  
5 authority. The recommendations must consider opportunities for  
6 building on successes achieved prior to making any changes,  
7 avoiding project implementation delays, improving transportation  
8 governance, and improving the reliable and predictable movement of  
9 people and goods throughout the region, including, at a minimum,  
10 consideration of the following:

11 (i) Integrating regional comprehensive economic and other  
12 planning with regional transportation planning to ensure that the  
13 region's development goals are met;

14 (ii) The legal, financial, and programmatic impacts of the  
15 enabling legislation on existing local authorities, local transit  
16 agencies, and regional transit authorities;

17 (iii) The steps that may be necessary for the orderly  
18 transition of existing organizations into a regional authority,  
19 including steps necessary for federal approval of changes to the  
20 metropolitan planning organization designation;

21 (iv) Achieving necessary support to governance changes by local  
22 and regional governments in the region, including adequate  
23 opportunity to participate in regional decision making, incentives  
24 for implementing changes, and metropolitan planning organization  
25 redesignation;

26 (v) Adequate regional transportation revenue sources, including  
27 influencing priorities for state investments, to implement the  
28 region's transportation plan;

29 (vi) The appropriate responsibility of a regional authority  
30 over all modes of transportation, including ferries, highways,  
31 streets, roads, transit, rail, marine, and air, as well as the  
32 goals, objectives, and standards that the region should use to  
33 monitor achievement and performance;

34 (vii) The opportunities for a regional authority to ensure that  
35 an integrated multimodal corridor approach is used for  
36 transportation decisions in the region; and

37 (viii) The necessary performance measures sufficient to ensure  
38 public accountability regarding transportation project and service  
39 delivery within the region;

1 (b) Provide direction on reorganizing the department of  
2 transportation's existing administrative regions, such that only  
3 one administrative region is dedicated solely to supporting the  
4 central Puget Sound region and that this administrative region  
5 coordinate, plan, and integrate project schedules and design plans  
6 with local and regional entities;

7 (c) As deemed appropriate, develop a statutory framework and  
8 draft legislation for implementing the recommendations of the task  
9 force.

10 (4) The joint transportation committee, on behalf of the task  
11 force, may contract with appropriate professional consultants as  
12 necessary, and the task force may establish legal, technical, and  
13 advisory work groups to assist in its work. Additionally, the task  
14 force may consult with the Puget Sound regional council, local  
15 transit agencies, and regional transit authorities.

16 (5) By December 15, 2008, the task force shall submit its  
17 recommendations, draft legislation, and any supporting materials to  
18 the legislative standing committees on transportation and the  
19 governor.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 1, 2009."

21  
22 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Strikes all material in the underlying bill, which finds that the current system of transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region is inadequate to meet the needs of the region and state, directs the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a task force to consider the impacts of establishing a new regional governance structure, and requires the task force to submit draft legislation to the Legislature by December 15, 2007 that implements the recommendations of the Regional Transportation Commission.

Provides that the existing approach to transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region could be strengthened and improved, and that a regional authority may result in improved planning, funding, and prioritization of roads and transit systems. Further provides that establishing a regional governance authority is a complex undertaking, and that there is considerable value in preserving that which is working well and in continuing to carefully and deliberately examine implementation issues in order to protect existing investments and to avoid unintended consequences.

Directs the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a regional governance task force to examine implementation issues, and to submit recommendations and legislation to implement a phased-in restructuring of transportation governance such that a regional authority may be established. Requires that the task force submit its recommendations and draft legislation to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2008.