

**HB 2101** - H AMD TO H AMD (2101 AMH CLIB LEAT 072) **751**  
By Representative Simpson

1 Beginning on page 1, at the beginning of line 3 of the striking  
2 amendment, strike all material and insert the 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,

1 funding, and prioritization of roads and transit systems, and would  
2 better meet the current and future transportation needs of the  
3 state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (3) The chief executive officer of Sound Transit, or her  
2 designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (viii) The necessary performance measures sufficient to ensure  
2 public accountability regarding transportation project and service  
3 delivery within the region;

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

10 (c) As deemed appropriate, develop a statutory framework and  
11 draft legislation for implementing the recommendations of the task  
12 force.

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

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

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

24  
25 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Strikes all material in the striking amendment, which 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; establishes the Legislature's intent to form, effective January 1, 2009, a new regional governance authority; directs the Joint Transportation Commission to establish a task force to examine implementation issues and to draft legislation; and requires the task force to report to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2007.

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, but is not required, to be established. Requires that the task force submit its recommendations and draft legislation to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2008.