



RTAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 9, 2009

I have attached an updated list of transportation-related bills and their status. Clearly, the legislative focus continues to be the FY2010 state budget. While the House has considered bills in committee, Senate President Burns has continued his pledge of holding all bills from being assigned to committees until the budget is resolved. This will be increasingly problematic for the passage of regular session bills as a lack of time may preclude the consideration of most, particularly by the Senate.

As far as the budget, the Governor addressed the Legislature last week and indicated that a temporary sales tax increase should be considered by the Legislature or referred to the voters. Voters may also see a measure to ease Proposition 105 requirements which protects spending levels of voter-protected programs. The House and Senate are also still assessing the potential impacts of the federal stimulus package on the state budget. President Burns indicated that the Senate Appropriations Committee will complete their work on agency budget proposals this week and that the full chamber will start to work on a budget proposal next week. I will keep you posted on new budget developments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions concerning the budget or proposed legislation.