

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 28, 2005 Hearing Room C

1:00 P.M. Tapes 32 - 33

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. George Gilman, Chair**

Rep. Terry Beyer, Vice-Chair

Rep. Deborah Boone

Rep. Scott Bruun

Rep. Dave Hunt

Rep. Kim Thatcher

MEMBER EXCUSED: **Rep. Chuck Burley, Vice-Chair**

STAFF PRESENT: **John Houser, Committee Administrator**

Mike Reiley, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2377 – Public Hearing

HB 2502 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

| TAPE/# | Speaker | Comments |
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TAPE 32, A

003 Chair Gilman Calls the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Opens a public hearing on HB 2377.

HB 2377 – PUBLIC HEARING

006 John Houser Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 2377.

016 Rep. Donna Nelson House District 24. Submits and summarizes prepared testimony in support of HB 2377 (**EXHIBIT A**). Describes the congestion along Highway 99W between McMinnville and Newberg. Notes that Hewlett-Packard has left due to traffic problems. Explains previous legislation addressing the issue. Reads a letter from Yamhill County Commissioner Leslie Lewis in support of HB 2377 (**EXHIBIT B**).

115 Rep. Boone Concurs with Rep. Nelson's testimony regarding congestion.

126 Rep. Thatcher Concurs with Rep. Nelson's testimony regarding congestion.

131 Rep. Nelson States that it would be impossible to take emergency action such as evacuating the Portland area if necessary.

144 Rep. Hunt Comments on the use of potential unused Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) funds for projects of statewide significance including the Newburg/Dundee bypass.

165 Marilyn Reeves President, Friends of Yamhill County. Submits and reads prepared testimony in support of HB 2377 (**EXHIBIT C**).

The following material is submitted for the record without public testimony:

Frances and Michael McMinnville. Submit prepared testimony in support of HB 2377
O'Brien (**EXHIBIT D**).

222 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 2377. Opens a public hearing on HB 2502.

HB 2502 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 250 John Houser Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 2502.
- 260 Rep. Donna Nelson House District 24. Submits and summarizes prepared testimony and information in support of HB 2502 (**EXHIBIT E**).

TAPE 33, A

- 055 Rep. Boone Explains her work as a volunteer firefighter and emergency drills involving school bus accidents.
- 076 Rep. Bruun Asks how much would be saved in insurance costs by requiring seat belts in buses.
- 080 Rep. Nelson Answers that she does not have information. Explains the costs of transporting students on school buses.
- 096 Chair Gilman Asks how seat belts would save lives of pedestrians.
- 098 Rep. Nelson Explains that hitting a pedestrian would involve swerving driving.
- 105 Rep. Hunt Asks if requiring new buses to apply seat belts would be acceptable.
- 112 Rep. Nelson Explains the compartmentalization of buses built since 1977. Argues that all pre-1977 buses should be retired.
- 150 Deborah Lincoln Director, Pupil Transportation, Oregon Department of Education. Submits and summarizes prepared information in opposition to HB 2502. Offers a PowerPoint presentation on bus safety.
- 255 Lincoln Shows video of school bus crashes and the effect of compartmentalization and lap and shoulder belts.
- 360 Lincoln Argues for safe bus drivers and safe components. Explains the criteria for assessing a bus accident.

TAPE 32, B

- 025 Lincoln Cites examples of bus accidents and safety. Argues for safety measures.

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| 065 | Lincoln | Highlights an informational flyer with information about children and school buses (EXHIBIT F) . |
| 077 | Rep. Thatcher | Asks if any states mandate seat belts in school buses. |
| 080 | Lincoln | Answers that New York and New Jersey require lap belts. |
| 085 | Rep. Thatcher | Clarifies that no shoulder belts are required. |
| 088 | Lincoln | Answers no and explains that there are no standards for it. |
| 091 | Rep. Thatcher | Asks about testing and possible considerations for shoulder belt. |
| 095 | Lincoln | Answers that it is difficult to develop a belt that will work for students of various sizes and ages. |
| 102 | Rep. Thatcher | Asks about the effect of cargo carried by students such as backpacks in a crash. |
| 105 | Lincoln | Argues that luggage compartments are necessary in school buses. |
| 117 | Rep. Boone | Asks if commercial buses require seat belts. |
| 119 | Lincoln | Answers that she does not believe that they do. |
| 122 | Craig Pruitt | Consultant. Explains his experience driving various types of buses and the effect of different types of crashes. |
| 134 | Rep. Boone | Argues that the lap/shoulder combination is the safest and disagrees that compartmentalization is the safest method. |
| 148 | Lincoln | Explains that school buses sit above the “crash zone” and engineering standards. |
| 166 | Rep. Beyer | States that the information provided has been helpful. Notes the considerations of various seat belts and their effect on crashes. |
| 189 | Rep. Bruun | Asks if accidents are predominantly side-impact or head-on. |

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| 203 | Lincoln | Answers that the most predominant accident is hitting a stationary object. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), most are head on. |
| 221 | Rep. Bruun | Asks if shoulder/lap belts or compartmentalization is safer, regardless of cost. |
| 229 | Lincoln | Answers that shoulder/lap belts would be safest if they were worn all the time. Explains a school bus accident in Sweet Home and the actions taken by the school bus driver to lessen the impact of the crash. |
| 251 | Rep. Hunt | Asks how many pre-1977 buses are in use. |
| 258 | Lincoln | Answers that in 1977, NHTSA set safety standards and there are 23 pre-1977 buses in use in Oregon. |
| 268 | Rep. Hunt | Notes that there seems to be a consensus on eliminating pre-1977 buses. Asks if there is an effort to eliminate them immediately. |
| 282 | Lincoln | Answers no. Points out that there have been efforts in previous legislative sessions, but it poses a hardship to rural districts to eliminate them. |
| 285 | Rep. Hunt | Asks what the replacement costs would be. |
| 290 | Steven Huillet | Consultant. Submits prepared information, "Definition of Reportable Accident" (EXHIBIT G). Answers that the price of a new school bus would be \$85,000-\$88,000 each. |
| 295 | Gilman | Asks how many school buses are operating in Oregon. |
| 298 | Lincoln | Answers that there are 6000 buses including activity buses and other type vehicles. |
| 304 | Rep. Boone | Notes the adjustments in passenger vehicles for seat belts. |
| 308 | Rep. Beyer | Asks about the market value for used replacement buses. |
| 318 | Lincoln | |

Explains that buying a new bus would have to meet 2005 safety standards. Commends Rep. Nelson for her work on safety.

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| 355 | Rep. Boone | Asks how to rationalize teaching children to put on seat belts in a car, but not in a school bus. |
| 365 | Lincoln | Answers that she explains safety to children in both cars and buses. |
| 377 | Chair Gilman | Closes the public hearing on HB 2502. Adjourns the meeting at 2:23 p.m. |

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **HB 2377, prepared testimony, Rep. Donna Nelson, 1 p**
- B. **HB 2377, prepared letter from Leslie Lewis, Rep. Donna Nelson, 1 p**
- C. **HB 2377, prepared testimony, Merilyn Reeves, 1 p**
- D. **HB 2377, prepared testimony, Frances and Michael O'Brien, 1 p**
- E. **HB 2502, prepared testimony and information, Rep. Donna Nelson, 6 pp**
- F. **HB 2502, prepared information, Deborah Lincoln, 1 p**
- G. **HB 2502, prepared information, Steven Huillet, 1 p**