

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

May 21, 1997 Hearing Room D

08:30 A.M. Tapes 114- 115

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice-Chair

Rep. Tim Josi

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Bill Markham

Rep. Lonnie Roberts

Rep. Larry Wells

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Janet Adkins, Policy Analyst

Erik Deitz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

SB 925 Work Session

SB 1184 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 459 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 458 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
TAPE 114, A		
005	Chair Montgomery	Calls meeting to order at 8:41 a.m., opens work session on SB 925

SB 925 WORK SESSION		
010	Janet Adkins	Policy Analyst, explains SB 925 to committee and audience.
020	Chair Montgomery	Asks about different properties that can be transferred.
030	Adkins	Responds that there is no specific list of properties.
031	Sen. Joan Dukes	District 1, responds that the bill started out with just the Beaver Boat Ramp then broadened. Explains that the Parks Department list may have confused the issue. Explains that parcels will be transferred only if ODOT wants to transfer and the Parks Department wants the property (EXHIBIT B) .
050	Sen. Dukes	Explains how the state parks are funded and that Beaver Boat Ramp is about to be sold to a private entity. The private party may in turn charge a fee for its use but that Oregon taxpayers paid for the ramp.
065	Rep. Wells	States that he has read the legal jargon that he has received from Legislative Counsel and asks about specific language. Explains that this is a very important issue and that it would be unfortunate if the Beaver Boat Ramp fell into private hands.
085	Chair Montgomery	Explains that a decision needs to be reached today.
093	Rep. Josi	Agrees with Chair Montgomery. Asks if a portion of the bill can be conceptually amended. Asks Sen. Dukes if that would be okay.
104	Sen. Dukes	Responds that it would be okay.
106	Chair Montgomery	States that ODOT will not be forced to transfer the land, SB 459 will only allow them to do it.
117	Sen. Dukes	Asks if section three of the bill can be left the way it is. Explains that section three guarantees Beaver Boat Ramp will be transferred.
140	Vice-Chair Lehman	Explains the need to leave section one in the bill.
145	Rep. Josi	MOTION: Moves to AMEND SB 925A on page 1, in line 5, delete Section 2.
150	Chair Montgomery	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
155	Rep. Josi	MOTION: Moves SB 925A to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
165		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair Montgomery	The motion CARRIES. REP. TAYLOR will lead discussion on the floor.
	Chair	

160	Montgomery	Closes work session on SB 925, opens public hearing on SB 1184
<u>SB 1184 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
170	Adkins	Explains SB 1184 to committee and audience.
193	Sen. Lenn Hannon	District 26, introduces SB 1184 to committee. Gives his support of SB 1184.
205	Rep. Roberts	Asks about the number of people on the Board of Commissioners of Port of Portland.
218	Adkins	Asks about wording in the bill.
223	Sen. Hannon	Responds that the bill permits but does not require anything.
230	Katy Coba	Governor's Office, testifies in favor of SB 1184, explains that representation should not be just limited to members from Washington County.
251	Allan Willis	Port of Portland, testifies in favor of SB 1184 and explains that he agrees with Coba and Sen. Hannon.
255	Chair Montgomery	Closes public hearing on SB 1184, opens work session.
<u>SB 1184 WORK SESSION</u>		
260	Rep. Roberts	MOTION: Moves SB 1184A to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
265		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
270	Chair Montgomery	The motion CARRIES. REP. ROBERTS will lead discussion on the floor.
298	Vice-Chair Lehman	Closes work session on SB 1184, opens public hearing on SB 459.
<u>SB 459 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
305	Adkins	Explains SB 459 to committee and audience.
322	Sen. Ken Baker	District 14, testifies in favor of SB 459. Introduces Andy Contugno and Carl Hosticka to committee. Explains that in order to build a tollway local governments would still need to approve each project. Explains different options to control traffic congestion.
373	Rep. Roberts	Asks if the bottleneck coming out of Washington is going to be one of the possible tollways.
404	Carl Hosticka	Traffic Relief Options Committee responds that possibly another lane

		could be added.
TAPE 115, A		
010	Hosticka	Explains the benefits of tollways.
017	Rep. Markham	Asks if tollways have been successful in Southern California.
023	Hosticka	Responds yes.
025	Rep. Roberts	Asks about large trucks and accidents.
030	Hosticka	Responds that there is a large number of people that travel into Washington.
035	Rep. Anitra Rasmussen	District 11, testifies in support of SB 459.
040	Adkins	Asks about specific language in the bill.
044	Hosticka	Responds.
046	June Carlson	ODOT, testifies in support of SB 459. States she agrees with the other testimony (EXHIBIT C).
060	Rep. Markham	Asks who has veto power and who will approve the tollways.
067	Hosticka	Responds ODOT has that power.
068	Chair Montgomery	Closes the public hearing on SB 459, opens a work session on SB 435.
SB 435 WORK SESSION		
070	Rep. Roberts	MOTION: Moves SB 459A to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
075		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair Montgomery	The motion CARRIES. REP. LOKAN will lead discussion on the floor.
082	Chair Montgomery	Closes work session on SB 459, opens public hearing on SB 458.
SB 458 PUBLIC HEARING		
090	Adkins	Explains SB 458 to committee and audience. Submits the SB 458-A2 conflict amendments dated 05/19/97 (EXHIBIT A).
		District 13, testifies in favor of SB 458. Explains that several states already have increased their speed limits. Testifies that driving

100	Sen. Randy Miller	behavior has not changed with the increase, it just makes going faster legal. Explains that not every stretch of highway is going to have an increased speed limit.
150	Rep. Mark Simmons	District 58, testifies that he spends several hours on the highway when returning to his district and would like to have the speed limit increased.
163	Rep. Wells	Asks about the increase on rural areas vs. metropolitan areas.
171	Sen. Miller	Responds that it depends. The population in each area would dictate the speed on each particular section of highway. Explains that ODOT may keep the speed limits lower in merging traffic areas or other areas that they deem too unsafe for higher speeds.
190	Rep. Wells	Asks what the fiscal impact is in regard to this bill.
202	Sen. Miller	Most of the time and money will be spent on road signs, and that there is plenty of data from studies that have already been conducted so there is not a great need for more studies.
215	Rep. Wells	Asks what local road authority means.
221	Adkins	Responds that it could be the local jurisdiction city or county if they have authority over that stretch of road.
233	Sen. Miller	States that local jurisdictions should be able to restrict and control their own streets.
243	Rep. Roberts	Asks when there is a sudden reduction in speed are the police going to set a radar trap there.
260	Chair Montgomery	Asks if this bill passes will the speed limit immediately go up, then not until after the studies are done they may come down.
270	Sen. Miller	States that his intent is to have the speed limit be allowed to increase.
300	Bennot Langlotz	National Motorist Association, testifies in favor of SB 458 (EXHIBIT D). Explains that every state in the western portion of the United States has raised their speed limits. Explains that speeds don't change accident rates.
350	Vice-Chair Lehman	Asks about the number of fatalities in 1986 and that it has taken eight years to bring the fatalities down to a moderate level.
365	Langlotz	Explains that most motorists drive at speeds they feel comfortable at. States that raising speed limit will free up Oregon State Patrol by bringing more drivers into compliance with traffic laws.
410	Vice-Chair Lehman	States that his data mostly looks at fatalities, asks about accidents in general.
TAPE 114, B		
015	Langlotz	Responds that the statistics parallel each other.
030	Vice-Chair Lehman	Asks if Langlotz has any data from the first time that the speed limit was raised.
040	Langlotz	Responds. Explains how difficult it is to teach young drivers to obey traffic laws when so many people speed.

090	Langlotz	Continues testimony.
100	Rep. Lokan	Asks about Montana's speed limit changes.
101	Langlotz	Responds that there have been no adverse safety effects.
111	Dr. John Tongue	ODOT Safety Committee, introduces Dr. Erangeline Sokal and Deputy Mike Hoberstien.
120	Dr. Erangeline Sokal	Oregon Chapter of Emergency Physicians, testifies in opposition to SB 458. Explains that as an emergency room physician she is on the front line when fatality patients come to the emergency room. Explains that the greater velocity the greater the impact resulting in greater injury.
150	Deputy Mike Hoberstien	City of Wilsonville Police Department, testifies against SB 458. States that he has investigated many traffic accidents and has seen what happens when automobiles travel too fast. Explains that most people generally travel at ten miles per hour above the posted speed limit. States that very few accidents have happened when motorists are traveling at or below the speed limit.
190	Rep. Wells	Explains when Idaho raised its speed limit to 75 miles per hour it was going to be strictly enforced, asks if Oregon is going to do the same.
220	Deputy Hoberstein	Responds that even if drivers are going one mile per hour over the limit they have earned a citation. Testifies that he is proud to be an Oregonian and that Oregon has been on the cutting edge of issues and hopes that just because other states have raised their speed limits that does not mean Oregon needs to do the same.
240	Dr. Tongue	Traffic Safety Commission, testifies against SB 458, explains that it will cost Oregon lives and money. Explains that highway deaths have increased in Washington and decreased in Oregon.
285	Chair Montgomery	Explains that other states have things that Oregon does not and that is not a sole reason to increase the speed limit. Closes public hearing on SB 458, adjourns meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Erik Deitz, Janet Adkins,

Administrative Support Policy Analyst

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SB 458, - A2 amendments, Janet Adkins, 7 pp

B - SB 925, written testimony, June Carlson, 2 pp

C - SB 925, written testimony, Sen. Joan Dukes, 2 pp

D - SB 458, prepared testimony, Bennot Langlotz, 3 pp