

Informational Meeting:
High Speed Light Rail
Work Session:
SB 271A
SB 274
Tapes 31-32 A/B

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE REVENUE AND SCHOOL FINANCE
PROPERTY TAX SUBCOMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 1993 8:00 AM HEARING ROOM A STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING

Members Present: Representative Tom Brian, Chair
Representative Mike Burton
Representative Fred Girod
Representative Delna Jones
Representative Jim Whitty
Members Excused: Representative Margaret Carter
Witnesses Present: Roger Martin, Transportation
'93

Joe Silien, Director of Business Development,
Asea Brown Boveri (ARE) Traction, Inc.
Tom Linhares, County Assessor, Columbia
County, Oregon Association of County
Tax Collectors
Delores DeVine, Oregon Association of County
Tax Collectors
Gary Bartholemew, Multnomah County, Oregon
Association of County Tax Collectors
Staff: James Scherzinger, Legislative Revenue Officer
Terry Drake, Legislative Revenue Office
Steve Meyer, Legislative Revenue Office
Paula McBride, Committee Assistant

TAPE 31 SIDE A

006 CHAIR BRIAN called the meeting to order at 8:11 and he conducted
administrative business.

020 ROGER MARTIN introduced JOE SILIEN and TODD WELTY from ABB Traction,
Inc. (the manufacturer of the X2000 Train), who would make the presentation
on high speed light rail systems.

These minutes paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this
meeting. Text enclosed in quotation marks reports the speaker's exact
words. For complete context of proceedings, please refer to the tape
recording.

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037 JOE SILIEN spoke about his company, which creates products for the
American rail and transit systems, and about his background in
transportation. He believed there were a number of "corridors" in the U.S.
that could greatly benefit from a high speed light rail system. Using the
overhead projector, he described various factors of the technology and why
he believed it would work so well in the U.S. (see Exhibit 1 for copies of
the transparencies) The following were specific issues he addressed:

090 light rail systems used in other countries; Exhibit 1,

page 2

114 investments in high speed rail infrastructure; Exhibit 1, page 3
129 the majority of cost is for new infrastructure; Exhibit 1, page 4
138 high speed rail is not necessarily synonymous with high top speed;
Exhibit 1, page 5

162 the Swedish example confirms the viability of low cost, innovative
solutions for high speed rail; Exhibit 1, page 6

Questions and discussion

237 X2000 infrastructure investment; Exhibit 1,
page 7

281 X2000 Technology Concentrates On: text follows;
Exhibit 1,
page 8

290 Self-Steering Radial Truck; Exhibit 1, page 9

316 Active Tilting System; Exhibit 1, page 10

331 X200 North American Potential; Exhibit 1, page 11

Questions and discussion about possible light-rail routes in the U.S.

393 Potential X2000 Rail Corridors (map);

TAPE 32 SIDE

A

010 JOE SILIEN showed a video to the members on the X2000 system used on
the East Coast and about other X2000 systems being

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contemplated in other parts of the country. ABB technology was portrayed.
106 JOE SILIEN described the test of the X2000 mentioned in the video. He
mentioned the ability to use the high speed rail system without the need
for electrification, and that his company is working on a diesel unit that
will at least approximate the performance of the electric. He spoke about a
national tour of the train to give people an indication of what the future
of rail travel could be like.

Questions and discussion interspersed

162 JOE SILIEN said most of the building material and work involved with
building high speed light rail systems will be done in the U.S.

Questions and discussion

198 JOE SILIEN believed that the issue of competition with airlines would
have to be resolved in each state. He stressed that it is not an objective
to put airlines out of business, but to give commuters choices in travel
alternatives. He gave examples of this issue for cities served by high
speed light rail in the East and in Europe.

234 JOE SILIEN discussed how a high speed rail system might be set up here
in the Northwest that would flexibly meet the needs of many people.

Questions and discussion

270 JOE SILIEN talked about the role AMTRACK would play, both in the
development and the management, of high speed light rail systems in the
country.

310 JOE SILIEN discussed how various high speed light rail systems were funded and the revenue they produce.

375 JOE SILIEN said high speed light rail systems cannot work in a vacuum, and he talked about what other transportation systems were needed to support a rail system.

TAPE 31 SIDE B

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002 JOE SILIEN talked about how high speed light rail systems can accommodate freight.

010 JOE SILIEN discussed track infrastructure and its relationship to the quality of a high speed light rail system.

040 JOE SILIEN talked about alternatives to electric high speed light rail system. Some technology is not yet available.

Discussion

071 CHAIR BRIAN recessed the meeting at 9:12 and reconvened at 9:35.

072 CHAIR BRIAN opened the Work Session on SB 271.

088 TOM LINHARES said SB 271A is one of three bills supported by the Association of County Assessors which were designed in response to Measure 5. SB 271A is related to the use of farm and forest land, but does not change the assessor's process or date of application. It does extend the date of notification by a month (from July 7 to August 15).

Questions and discussion

182 MOTION REP. WHITTY moved to pass SB 271A to the full committee with a do-pass recommendation.

NO DISCUSSION

189 VOTE The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ayes: REPS. GIROD, WHITTY, and BRIAN. Excused: REPS. CARTER and BURTON.

201 CHAIR BRIAN closed the Work Session on SB 271A.

202 CHAIR BRIAN opened the Work Session on SB 274.

198 DELORES DEVINE testified in support of SB 274, which covers several issues that have caused problems for property tax collection. Section 2 addresses a problem with delinquent taxes.

Questions and discussion

241 STEVE MEYER clarified the issue described above.

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257 DELORES DEVINE continued her explanation of SB 274, page 2, which had

"clean-up" language created by legal counsel. On line 32, page 2, related to the limit of refund given back to a taxpayer (nothing under \$10) unless requested to do so.

Questions and discussion

317 DELORES DEVINE gave some history of the issue of limiting the amount of refund.

Questions and discussion

366 STEVE MEYER clarified Section 2 of SB 274, about delinquent taxes, for members.

Questions and discussion

384 DELORES DEVINE discussed page 3, line 4 of SB 274, which requires payment of all certified taxes, not just delinquent taxes, prior to division of a land parcel.

409 DELORES DEVINE described page 4, Section 6, SB 274 relating to delinquent personal property taxes that are completely noncollectible.

TAPE 32 SIDE B

002 DELORES DEVINE pointed out that on line 41 of page 4 of SB 274 was designed to create the same minimum amount for both real and property taxes that have to be collected, and canceling any taxes under that amount.

014 DELORES DEVINE said that on page 5, line 13, of SB 274 language referred to the Senior Deferral Program, and extends the "delay of foreclosure" clause to seniors with mobile homes or floating homes which are classified as personal property.

023 GARY BARTHOLEMEW spoke a few words about the section requiring the minimum refund amount. He preferred that "upon request" language not be added

071 GARY BARTHOLEMEW relayed that Section 9 of SB 274 would change the wording in the tax bill on how to get a receipt, in order to discourage people asking for them. Receipts would still be given if requested.

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091 MOTION REP. WHITTY moved that SB 274 be sent to the full Committee with a do-pass recommendation.

NO DISCUSSION

093 VOTE The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ayes: REPS. WHITTY, GIROD, and CHAIR BRIAN. Excused: REPS. CARTER and BURTON.

092 CHAIR BRIAN closed the Work Session on SB 274

093 CHAIR BRIAN adjourned the meeting at 10:07.

Paula K. McBride, Committee Assistant

Kimberly Taylor Office Manager

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

1. X2000 ... The New Approach to High Speed Rail, Joseph S. Silien, Director of Business Development, ABB Traction, Inc.

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