

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES  
February 22, 1977  
3:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hayes      Mr. May  
                         Mr. Demers                      Mr. Jacobsen  
                         Mr. Glover                        Mrs. Westall  
                         Mr. Harmon

GUESTS PRESENT: Ted Fawcett  
                         Carl Chaplin, WNCC  
                         Robert F. Guinn, Nevada Motor Transport Assoc.  
                         George Wilderson, NSHD  
                         Don Crosby, NSHD  
                         Steve Tucker, City of No. Las Vegas  
                         J. J. Austin, Motor Vehicle Mfg. Assn.  
                         James Versellino

AB 282

Mr. Donald J. Crosby, Deputy State Highway Engineer, said the Highway Department proposed this legislation primarily to allow utilization of certain funds for the advance acquisition of highway rights. Some of these funds have already been used in the Reno and Clark County areas, and for north-south freeways. (See EXHIBIT "A")

It is the intention of the Department to apply for a grant for right of way funds. They have reasonable expectations of receiving the funds. The advantage of being able to acquire right of ways in advance is that property values are lower. They have already saved the State a great deal of money. If the Department is able to take advantage of Federal funds in the next five or six years much more will be saved.

Mr. Crosby suggested an amendment to AB 282--on page 3, line 1 they would like the wording changed to "Unless such retention is authorized as to such property by specific description by a resolution of the board." (See EXHIBIT "B")

Mr. Crosby stated: That projects of great magnitude, like an express way, could not be completed in the ten year period; fifteen or sixteen years would be more realistic; the Department would acquire property only when there was a bona fide program; it was not intended for purchase of property for speculative purposes. When they do have a project they should have every resource available to protect the public investment.

AB 284

Mr. Donald J. Crosby, Deputy State Highway Engineer, spoke also in favor of AB 284. In the 1973 Federal Highway Act there was a new section pertaining to off system roads, that is, county roads that were not on the Federal-State system. Three million dollars were made available for utilization on these off system roads. The Federal law specified secondary road standards were to be followed, unless the State could demonstrate they had adequate separate standards and this they have done. Their legal staff has indicated they could not legally spend State highway money on off system road projects; yet they are required by the Federal Government to administer that program. They means they have to divert some money to the off system. The State will act in an auditing-policing roll. so that these funds are properly expended and that all regulations and statutes are adhered to. This is essential because counties do not have the resources or capabilities to comply with the present guidelines. What they are concerned with is a little liberalization of the laws that presently exist to allow State Highway Department to assist the counties to acquire and utilize the Federal funds available.

Mr. Jacobsen asked what roads were covered under the State Highway sysem and was told Federal interstate, primary and secondary. A lot of secondary roads have been dropped from the Federal system and are now on the State system. Rural and county roads are not all covered in the State and Federal system.

Mr. Demers asked if the cooperative agreements that specified "improvements" was intended to cover "maintenance"? He was told the State Highway Department did not maintain the roads. The counties assume maintenance responsibilities. They have some cooperative agreements whereby the Department buys the materials for maintenance and passes this material along to the counties.

Chairman Hayes asked if there was any oppsition to AB 284. There was none.

Mr. Demers asked if the Highway Department representatives knew of anyone that would be opposed to AB 282 or AB 284. There was no one of which they were aware.

Chairman Hayes introduced Mr. James Versellino, who helped create the aviation department in Arizona. She stated we have problems with helicopters, etc. There is a bill creating a Department of Transportation but aviation and aeronautics are left out of it. There is now no control of helicopters because the statutes do not apply to some of the problems peculiar to helicopters, for example, helicopters used in lieu of cranes.

Mr. Versellino stated: He had been 35 years in the aviation business; for the last 20 years he was director of the Department of Aeronautics for the State of Arizona; the last two years of that 20 years was as Assistant Director of the Department of Transportation; he developed and created much of the Arizona Department of Aviation; during that time helped to create legislation in diverting the unrefunded portion of aviation gasoline taxes to the Finance Department to avoid levying any additional taxes on aviation or other agencies. This unrefunded portion is amount left in the State by persons who buy aviation gasoline and do not make the effort to complete the necessary paperwork to claim the refund.

These refund moneys provided necessary funds to develop airports in small communities that were in great need of financial help to operate their airport facilities. The large communities are able to take care of themselves. Mr. Versellino recommended creating an organization within an existing Department to administer activities and laws pertaining to aviation.

Mr. Demers asked if Mr. Versellino saw any reason why we should not create a Division of Aviation? He was told this might jeopardize the Department of Transportation and would indeed jeopardize the aviation bill.

Chairman Hayes declared a recess.

Mr. Demers moved to Do Pass AB 282; Mr. Harmon seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Demers moved to Do Pass AB 284; Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



M. Robertson, Secretary

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

MEMORANDUM

*Exhibit "A"*

February 17, 1977

To: Donald J. Crosby, P. E., Deputy State Highway Engineer

From: Eldredge T. Porch, Chief Right of Way Agent

Subject: Total Expenditures on Advance Acquisition Projects through January 1977

|                      | <u>Project No.</u>  | <u>E. A. No.</u> | <u>Total Expenditure</u> | <u>Total by Co.</u>    |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Clark County</u>  |                     |                  |                          |                        |
|                      | QF-006-2(8)         | 70493            | \$1,839,639.00           |                        |
|                      | QF-006-2(9)         | 70576            | 1,057,974.00             |                        |
|                      | QF-006-2(10)        | 70640            | <u>897,616.00</u>        |                        |
|                      | Total Clark County  |                  |                          | \$3,795,229.00         |
| <u>Washoe County</u> |                     |                  |                          |                        |
|                      | QF-009-1(10)        | 70594            | 2,658,524.00             |                        |
|                      | QF-009-1(11)        | 70595            | 4,101,062.00             |                        |
|                      | QF-009-1(12)        | 70596            | 4,176,323.00             |                        |
|                      | QF-009-1(13)        | 70597            | <u>1,807,669.00</u>      |                        |
|                      | Total Washoe County |                  |                          | <u>\$12,743,578.00</u> |
|                      |                     |                  |                          | Total \$16,538,807.00  |

Clark County

Anticipated expenditure of \$75,000,000 for R/W, relocation and utilities on I-515 and Priority Primary.

Land values in Washoe and Clark Counties have more than tripled since acquisition. Based on this, we have already realized a savings in the neighborhood of \$40 million.

Based on growth and our past history, it is anticipated that between \$150-\$200 million will be saved by the advanced acquisition of the I-515 and Primary rights of way.

ETP/IB:rm

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

MEMORANDUM

425  
"B" 2/8/77  
Exhibit

February 15, 1977

To Donald J. Crosby

Deputy State Highway Engineer

From Office of the Chief Counsel

Subject: Amendment to A.B. 282

I discussed amending the proposed bill with Frank Daykin, Legislative Counsel, and he suggested that a request be made to the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation to appear before them to explain the amendment and the reason behind it.

To accomplish what you wish the following is suggested as amendment language:

Present wording - "Unless such retention is authorized as to such property by specific description by a concurrent resolution of the legislature."

Suggested new wording - "Unless such retention is authorized as to such property by specific description by a resolution of the board."

*William M. Raymond*  
William M. Raymond  
Deputy Attorney General  
Assistant Chief Counsel  
Department of Highways

WMR:p



