

SB 64: California Transportation Plan

Senator Carol Liu, 25th District

As introduced January 5, 2015

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Transportation Commission to review updates to the California Transportation Plan and prepare specific recommendations to improve the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system, including High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes, passenger rail, bus service and other travel modes. These changes should reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase sustainability, and help prepare the state transportation system to deal with long-term climate change. This bill is a follow-up to SB 391 (Liu), 2009.

BACKGROUND

SB 391 required updates of the California Transportation Plan to address how the state will meet its transportation infrastructure and mobility needs while also meeting criteria air pollution standards and achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

In preparing the California Transportation Plan, the California Department of Transportation consults with other state agencies and departments with related authority, a broad range of regional entities involved in transportation and air quality planning, associations representing cities and counties, and the public. The plan would be updated every five years.

The California Transportation Plan is a statewide, long-range transportation strategy that guides transportation decisions and investments in the 21st Century. The Plan provides a policy framework for meeting statewide transportation needs. It defines goals, policies, and strategies to achieve our collective vision for California's transportation future. The plan envisions a sustainable system that improves mobility and enhances our quality of life.

PURPOSE

Over the last several years, the direction in California environmental protection, transportation, housing, and infrastructure financing policy has been to break down the silos created by single-purpose bureaucratic organizations and legislative mandates. The 21st Century goal is to produce integrated planning processes that recognize the relationships among land use; transportation and housing; air quality; and energy planning, regulatory and infrastructure funding processes.

Motivating this new direction is the recognition of climate change as a reality and California's desire to be a leader in the field of tackling this global issue. Pressure on the statewide transportation system will increase with a growing population, expanding goods movement, and housing and business growth. At the same time, the state must find ways to reduce greenhouse gases, keep people and goods moving, and improve the quality of life for all Californians.

SOLUTION

The updated California Transportation Plan should result in specific recommendations to the Legislature to enact any changes in law necessary to achieve these goals. SB 64 requires the California Transportation Commission to make such recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor every time the California Transportation Plan is updated.

SPONSOR

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