

HCS SB 173 -- TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SPONSOR: Dixon (Cierpiot)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation Funding and Public Institutions by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding transportation and infrastructure. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires the Joint Committee on Missouri's Promise to develop long-term strategies and plans for investing in and maintaining a modern infrastructure and transportation system and identifying potential sources of revenue to sustain these efforts;

(2) Establishes the Missouri State Transit Assistance Program to be administered by the Department of Transportation to provide financial assistance to defray the operating and capital costs incurred by public mass transportation service providers. The distribution of any appropriated funds must be determined by evaluating certain factors of each service provider including population, ridership, cost and efficiency of the program, availability of alternative transportation in the area, and local effort or tax support;

(3) Extends the expiration date of the Highways and Transportation's authority to enter into design-build projects to July 1, 2018. Currently, the commission within the Department of Transportation has this authority until July 1, 2012. The commission is also authorized to enter into an additional design-build contract for the design, construction, reconstruction, or improvement of the Daniel Boone Bridge on U. S. Highway 40/61 I-64 located in the counties of St. Louis and St. Charles;

(4) Authorizes the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to enter into a design-build contract for a construction project exceeding \$1 million. The substitute:

(a) Establishes design-build contract procedures;

(b) Requires the district to adopt procedures for requesting proposals from up to five prequalified contractors and evaluating and awarding contracts;

(c) Establishes advertising requirements and procedures for submitting and opening proposals and for readvertising when necessary;

(d) Specifies that payment bonds are required, but the performance bond does not need to cover design services if the contractor or subcontractor providing design services carries professional liability insurance in the amount established by the district in the request for proposal;

(e) Requires an architect, engineer, or land surveyor providing services for the contractor to be licensed or authorized in this state as required by law, unless the subcontractor performing the services is properly licensed;

(f) Requires the district to retain an architect or engineer unless it already retains one; and

(g) Prohibits the architect or engineer retained by the district from acting as the design-build contractor, subcontractor, joint venturer, or partner for the project; and

(5) Extends, from December 31, 2011, to December 31, 2014, the requirement that the Highways and Transportation Commission be a notification center participant regarding excavation involving underground facilities and removes the provision which requires the notification center to ask excavators, as part of the process, to request the locating and marking of underground facilities and to identify whether or not the proposed excavation will be on a public right-of-way or easement dedicated to public use for vehicular traffic.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill expands the duties of the Joint Committee on Missouri's Promise in order to improve Missouri's transportation system and infrastructure.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Dixon.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.