

HB 1963 -- TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill defines a "tube transport system" as a high-speed transportation system, including infrastructure and facilities, in which pressurized pods containing passengers or freight ride or coast upon a cushion of air through magnetic levitation within a reduced-pressure or vacuum tube, propelled by electric power, and adds "tube transport system" to the types of projects that are eligible for a public-private partnership.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that if this bill passes, Missouri will become a leader in the future of transportation. Proponents want Missouri to remain competitive with other states in the future of transportation. The government will also have the opportunity to partner with private organizations for projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; American Council of Engineering Companies-Missouri; Kansas City Tech Council; Andrew Gill Smith; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.