

BILL: HOUSE RESOLUTION 3305

AUTHOR: REPRESENTATIVE EARL BLUMENAUER

SUBJECT: THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT OF 2017

**STATUS: HOUSE – REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSIT**

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT position on H.R. 3305 –The Bikeshare Transit Act of 2017 (115th Congress) authored by Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon.

ISSUE

U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer has introduced H.R. 3305 (Blumenauer) – The Bikeshare Transit Act of 2017 which would, if enacted into federal law, clarify the definition of bikeshare projects that qualify as an “associated transit improvement” under Title 49 of U.S. Code, add bikeshare projects to the definition of “capital project” under Title 49 of U.S. Code, and make bikeshare projects eligible for funding under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) under Title 23 of U.S. Code. The legislation seeks to add bikeshare projects to the formal definitions of transit projects as well as make clear to states that administer FHWA funding that bikeshare is eligible to receive federal funding.

While some bikeshare systems throughout the nation have received federal support through the CMAQ program, there is no established federal program that currently funds the ongoing needs of bikeshare systems. States such as California recognize that bikeshare projects are eligible for CMAQ funding, but the interpretation of eligibility is not uniform across the nation. To best support the development of successful bikeshare projects as well as be supportive of federal funding for bikeshare projects, it is important to clarify current law and support the uniform implementation of federal involvement in bikeshare projects nationwide.

DISCUSSION

Nationally, bikeshare systems are opening in large and small communities and represent an important mode of transit that can improve air quality, reduce congestion and enhance the quality of life for individuals. Currently, there are well over 100 bikeshare systems throughout the nation with more than 35 million trips taken last year. To help provide federal resources to bikeshare projects, Congressman Blumenauer’s

legislation, H.R. 3305, would define “bikeshare” in U.S. Code as well as make bikeshare projects eligible for federal funding. The Bikeshare Transit Act will allow federal funding to be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare related equipment and the construction of bikeshare facilities. The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new bikeshare projects as well as those for existing bikeshare programs applying for federal funding.

Staff believes that by supporting bikeshare systems throughout the nation, our region could directly benefit by learning best practices. Additionally, by solidifying the eligibility of bikeshare projects under federal law, Metro staff believes that support from the FHWA and FTA to implement and work through issues related to bikeshare projects would be improved and would directly benefit bikeshare programs across Los Angeles County.

Determination of Safety Impact

Staff has reviewed this legislation and determined that the legislation does not have a negative impact on safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has determined that the legislation could have a positive financial impact on our agency if the USDOT were to direct federal funds for our agency’s bikeshare program.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board of Directors could consider adopting an Oppose position on this legislation, however, this would be inconsistent with our Board-approved 2018 Federal Legislative program and the Najarian-Barger Motion adopted by the Board on May 24, 2018 related to bikeshare.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to SUPPORT H.R.3305, staff will draft a support letter and work with the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to advocate for the passage of The Bikeshare Transit Act of 2017.