

ATTACHMENT B

BILL: ASSEMBLY BILL 287

AUTHOR: ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHRIS HOLDEN (D-PASADENA)

SUBJECT: STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 710: ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATUS: PENDING COMMITTEE REFERRAL

ACTION: OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on Assembly Bill 287 (Holden). This bill would require Caltrans, in consultation with Metro, to establish the State Highway Route (SR) 710 Gap Corridor Transit Study Zone Advisory Committee, with a specified membership, to study the alternatives considered in the SR 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review and other transit options to improve travel in, and environmental impacts of, the SR-710 Corridor project area. The Advisory Committee would be comprised of members of Caltrans, Metro, the Cities of Alhambra, Pasadena and South Pasadena, members of the State Senate and Assembly that represent the project area.

The bill would prohibit the committee from recommending, and, prohibit Caltrans from implementing the tunnel option in the SR-710 corridor.

Specifically the bill would:

- Require Caltrans in consultation with Metro to establish the SR-710 Gap Corridor Transit Study Zone Advisory Committee;
- Require the advisory committee to make recommendations and submit a report to the Legislature, Caltrans and Metro by January 1, 2019 on the most feasible and appropriate project design alternative, as well as other transit options that could be implemented in the corridor.
- Require the department to implement the alternative as recommended; and,
- Would prohibit Caltrans from selecting a freeway tunnel alternative for the SR-710 North Gap.

DISCUSSION

Staff is recommending that the Board oppose the legislation unless amended. As introduced, the bill would require the formation of an advisory committee, require that committee to provide a report and complete study of alternatives with recommendations by 2019, and would prohibit Caltrans from choosing a tunnel as an alternative for the SR-710 North project.

Staff would raise two issues that we believe should be addressed in amendments. First is that we believe it is important to allow the environmental process to make the final determination on the tunnel alternative. Caltrans is the lead agency for the SR-710, since this is a state highway and should be responsible for the final determination of a project. We would recommend that the language prohibiting the tunnel option be removed from the bill.

Secondly we believe that the bill be amended to clarify a set of issues that would be addressed by the committee, such as how the work of the committee would be funded, staffing, scope, and most importantly how the final project recommendations of the committee would be funded. The committee could make recommendations on improvements that are outside the scope of the current environmental document and those alternatives may not have environmental clearance and may not have any funding identified.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt an OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on the measure AB 287 (Holden).

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

There is no determined safety impact due to the enactment of the proposed legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated financial impact has yet to be determined.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Staff has considered adopting either a support or neutral position on the bill. A support or neutral position would be inconsistent with Metro's Board approved 2017 State Legislative Program Goals to support the acceleration of construction of transportation projects in Los Angeles County.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt an OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on these measures; staff will communicate the Board's position to the author and work to ensure inclusion of the Board's priorities in the final version of the bill. Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as this issue is addressed throughout the legislative session.