

F I N A L R E P O R T

TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMITTEE

January, 1984

The Transportation Study Committee was authorized by the Legislative Council on June 6, 1983 to conduct during the 1983 legislative interim a study of the state's transportation system. The members of the Study Committee are as follows:

Senator Joe J. Welsh, Co-chairman
Representative Jack E. Woods, Co-chairman
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Milo Colton
Senator Lee Holt
Senator Arne Waldstein
Representative James J. Cooper
Representative William H. Harbor
Representative Deo A. Koenigs
Representative Ray Lageschulte

The purpose of the study is to evaluate and develop plans for moving the citizens of this state and their property using existing resources and new resources. The Study Committee was also directed to evaluate the funding sources for public transit assistance, roads, and railroads.

The Study Committee has held four meetings to date and has one authorized meeting remaining which has not been scheduled. During the first four meetings, the Study Committee reviewed highway funding and the constant dollar plan and the status and future projections relative to the rail, water, and air transportation systems in the state.

The Study Committee reviewed the Report of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Task Force and received a report from the State Department of Transportation relative to its positions on the respective recommendations. The Study Committee also reviewed public transit funding and the coordination of public transit services to reduce or eliminate the duplication of public transportation services. It appears that some effort is being made to reduce the duplication of transportation services but a more in-depth review may be needed.

PROPOSED SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COMMITTEE BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to transportation programs by defining a pub-
2 lic transit system, requiring coordinated funding and ser-
3 vices, establishing criteria to determine compliance, and
4 providing penalties for violations.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 601J.1, Code 1983, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. "Public transit system" means an urban
4 or regional transit system providing transit services
5 accessible to the general public and receiving federal, state
6 or local tax support.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. "Urban transit system" means a sys-
8 tem designated by the department in which motor buses are
9 operated primarily upon the streets of cities for the trans-
10 portation of passengers who present themselves for transpor-
11 tation without discrimination up to the limit of the capacity
12 of each motor bus. "Urban transit system" also includes motor
13 buses operated upon the streets of adjoining cities, whether
14 interstate or intrastate for the transportation of passengers
15 without discrimination up to the limit of the capacity of
16 each motor bus. A privately chartered bus service or
17 interurban carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the state
18 department of transportation is not an urban transit system.

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. "Regional transit system" means a
20 public transit system serving one county or all or part of
21 a multicounty area whose boundaries correspond to the same
22 boundaries as those of the regional planning areas designated
23 by the governor except as agreed upon by the county and the
24 department. Each county, through the county board of
25 supervisors, within the region shall be responsible for
26 determining the service and funding within its own county.
27 However, the administration and overhead support services
28 for the regional transit system shall be consolidated into
29 one existing or new agency to be mutually agreed upon by the
30 participating members.

31 Sec. 2. Section 601J.2, subsections 1 and 2, Code Supple-
32 ment 1983, are amended to read as follows:

33 1. An evaluation of existing ~~urban-and-rural-trans-~~
34 ~~portation~~ public transit systems, including but not limited
35 to an evaluation of rolling stock, the costs of operation

1 including the costs of fuel, maintenance and personnel and
2 the development of common management and operating systems
3 and procedures.

4 2. An analysis of existing urban and rural transit system
5 services provided for transportation disadvantaged persons
6 and the service needs of transportation disadvantaged persons,
7 including an evaluation of specialized equipment required
8 to meet the service needs of transportation disadvantaged
9 persons.

10 Sec. 3. Section 601J.4, subsection 1, Code 1983, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 1. The department shall compile and maintain current
13 information on available and pending federal, state, local,
14 and private aid effecting urban and rural public transit
15 programs. Public, private, and private nonprofit organizations
16 applying for or receiving federal, state or local aid for
17 providing transit services shall provide a copy of their
18 fiscal year operating budget annually prior to ~~December~~ June
19 depicting funds used for public transit programs and such
20 other information as the department may require prior to
21 receiving any federal or state funds or any aid from a
22 political subdivision of the state. The operating budget
23 shall list all of the funding sources of the organization
24 along with the listing of funds expended by that organization
25 during the preceding fiscal year. The department, in co-
26 operation with the regional planning agencies as the
27 responsible agency for annual updating the regional transit
28 development programs, shall compile this information annually.
29 Any state agency or organization administering funds for
30 transit services is required to submit all funding requests
31 through the regional and state clearinghouse and the state
32 department of transportation. Any organization ~~receiving~~
33 ~~federal, state or local aid to provide or contract for transit~~
34 services, state agency, political subdivision, and public
35 transit system, except public school transportation, ~~must~~

1 ~~be-in-compliance-with-the-state-transit-plan~~ receiving federal,
2 state or local aid to provide or contract for public transit
3 services or transportation to the general public and specific
4 client groups, must coordinate and consolidate funding and
5 resulting service, to the maximum extent possible, with the
6 urban or regional transit system.

7 Sec. 4. Section 601J.4, subsection 2, Code 1983, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 2. Upon request, the department shall provide assistance
10 to political subdivisions for federal aid applications for
11 urban and rural ~~public~~ transit system program aid. The
12 department, in co-operation with the regional planning
13 agencies, shall maintain current information reflecting the
14 amount of federal, state and local aid received by the public
15 and private nonprofit organizations providing public transit
16 services and the purpose for which ~~such~~ the aid is received.
17 The department shall annually prepare a report to be submitted
18 to the general assembly, the office for planning and
19 programming, and to the governor, prior to February 1 of each
20 year, stating the receipts and disbursements made during the
21 preceding fiscal year and the adequacy of programs financed
22 by federal, state, local, and private aid in the state. The
23 department shall analyze the programs financed and recommend
24 methods of avoiding duplication and increasing the efficacy
25 of programs financed. The department shall use the following
26 criteria to determine compliance with subsection 1:

27 a. Elimination of duplicative and inefficient adminis-
28 trative costs, policies and management.

29 b. Utilization of resources for transportation services
30 effectively and efficiently.

31 c. Elimination of duplicative and inefficient transporta-
32 tion services.

33 d. Development of transportation services for the general
34 public as well as transportation disadvantaged persons.

35 e. Protection of the rights of private enterprise public

1 transit providers.

2 f. Coordination of planning for transportation services
3 at the urban and regional level by all agencies or organiza-
4 tions receiving public funds that are purchasing or providing
5 transportation services.

6 g. Management of equipment and facilities purchased with
7 public funds so that efficient and routine maintenance and
8 replacement is accomplished.

9 h. Training of transit management, drivers and maintenance
10 personnel to provide safe, efficient, and economical transpor-
11 tation services.

12 Eligibility to receive or expend federal, state or local
13 funds for transportation services by all agencies or organiza-
14 tions purchasing or providing these services shall be
15 contingent upon compliance with these criteria as determined
16 by the department.

17 Sec. 5. Chapter 601J, Code 1983, is amended by adding
18 the following new section:

19 NEW SECTION. 601J.5 COORDINATION OF TRANSPORTATION SER-
20 VICES.

21 1. Prior to July 1, 1985 all agencies or organizations
22 purchasing or providing transportation services with federal,
23 state or local funds shall comply with section 601J.4.

24 2. Any agency or organization found to be in noncompliance
25 with section 601J.4 shall be notified in writing by the depart-
26 ment of those activities which are not in compliance. The
27 notice shall also provide for a period of thirty days during
28 which compliance with section 601J.4 can be accomplished
29 without penalty or sanction.

30 3. If noncompliant activities continue after the period
31 of thirty days, the department shall, in cooperation with
32 the attorney general and the state comptroller, initiate the
33 following actions:

34 a. If the activities that are not in compliance with sec-
35 tion 601J.4 are funded with state or federal funds which are

1 administered by the state and can be used by agencies or
2 organizations that are in compliance with section 601J.4,
3 then upon notice by the department, the state comptroller
4 shall not permit the expenditure of ten percent of the funds
5 during fiscal year 1986, an additional twenty percent of funds
6 during the following year, an additional thirty percent during
7 the third year, and the remaining funds in the fourth year
8 that the activities remain in noncompliance. Any funds
9 retained by the state comptroller shall be distributed to
10 agencies and organizations eligible to receive the funds for
11 transportation purposes. Any agency or organization which
12 is found not to be in compliance with section 601J.4 and
13 denied funds under this paragraph may appeal the decision
14 to a joint subcommittee of the senate and house standing
15 committees on transportation appointed by the chairs of the
16 senate and house standing committees on transportation. All
17 costs of the appeal shall be paid by the department.

18 b. If the activities that are not in compliance with sec-
19 tion 601J.4 are funded with state, federal or local funds
20 which are not administered by the state or cannot be used
21 by agencies and organizations that are in compliance with
22 section 601J.4, then upon notice by the department, the
23 attorney general shall file an action to enjoin agencies or
24 organizations from expending any funds until and unless
25 compliance with section 601J.4 is achieved. If federal funds
26 are involved in such cases, then the attorney general shall
27 notify the responsible federal agency of the actions and
28 request its cooperation.

29 Sec. 6. Chapter 601J, Code 1983, is amended by adding
30 the following new section:

31 NEW SECTION. 601J.6 SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION.
32 Each school district shall submit a report to the department
33 not later than July 1, 1985 to identify those uses of the
34 school transportation system which are subject to section
35 601J.4. Not later than March 1, 1986, the department shall

1 submit a report to the general assembly making its
2 recommendations for coordination of the public school
3 transportation system with the public transit system. School
4 districts shall conform with section 601J.4 on or before July
5 1, 1987.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The bill places definitions of transit systems in chapter
8 601J dealing with transportation programs. It requires en-
9 titles to coordinate transportation services which are offered.
10 The bill also bases eligibility of agencies to receive tax
11 funds for transit upon compliance with certain criteria mea-
12 sured by the state department of transportation. The bill
13 also provides for coordination of the school bus transportation
14 system with the state transit plan on or before July 1, 1987.
15 The bill takes effect July 1 following enactment.

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