Bill No.: SB-1142
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND THE FINANCING THEREOF.
Vote Date: 5/1/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 4/29/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
In an effort to create a transparent plan for financing transportation projects in the state this bill establishes a Strategic Transportation Planning Commission consisting of the transportation and economic development commissioners and seven gubernatorial appointees.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Shawn Wooden, State Treasurer offers support for the bill, stating “any effort to take a holistic approach to funding infrastructure improvement is commendable”. The testimony also contains proposals for the Treasurer to be a member of the Strategic Transportation Planning Commission, and to assurance of adequate and appropriate resources for the Commission. He further states any commission tasked with valuing financing options should include the Treasurer.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Scott Shepard, Policy and Research Director, Yankee Institute for Public Policy supports the bill in hopes that this commission will find ways to cut construction costs, even if that means engaging in outsourcing costs to private companies. Shepard also writes that in terms of the data collection and forecasting, there must be diligence in choosing who will be doing that analysis, assuring they have no motives to utilize any revenue generation approach that is not going to yield the best results.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by:  Logan Cotter               Date: 05/08/2019