

## **Legislative Update for the week ending 02/05/2016**

As we are moving through the session, sub-committees are beginning to wrap up their work and in the next few weeks we should see the full committees wrap up their work. This week saw committee meetings with both the Senate and House. Committee meetings of interest to the membership that took place:

Senate Transportation Committee.  
House Transportation and Ports Subcommittee  
House Economic Development and Transportation  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Senate Community Affairs

Meetings of interest next week:

Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Senate Transportation Committee  
Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee  
House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

### **Legislation that is of interest to the membership:**

**SB 168 – Traffic Infraction Detectors (Brandes).** This bill could be re-named the “no more red light cameras bill”. I believe this summarizes the intent of the bill and the bill narrowly passed out of the Transportation Committee after much debate. The Transportation Committee Chair (Brandes) is a strong opponent of red light cameras and he is pushing this bill forward. The next stop for this bill is the Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

**SB 1372 – Transportation (Flores) – Companion Bill HB1377.** This bill contains the provision for Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZs). The bill was a late introduction and therefore does not have an analysis. A further read of the bill illuminated a 50% reduction in TRIP funds. The bill has been referred to committees but has not been called by any of the committees. This bill appears to be stalled and is not likely to make it out of the committees. The companion bill is not identical and does not contain a decrease in TRIP funding or the provision for TRZs.

**HB 1377 – Expressway Authorities (Nunez) – Companion Bill SB1372.** This bill is the companion bill to SB 1372 however the two bills are not identical and really aren't that similar. Senate and House staff have linked the two bills, but they only share a few similarities. At the first committee stop, staff temporarily postponed this bill. It appears stalled for now.

**HB 357 – Traffic Safety (Plasencia) – Companion Bill SB522.** Called Chloe’s Law. This bill requires Florida DOT to install roadside barriers to shield water bodies contiguous with state roads anywhere there has been a motor vehicle crash that resulted in a drowning death in the past 10 years. The law does provide that the chief engineer can decide to not construct a barrier if the barrier itself will create a greater danger by its presence. The bill also requires DOT to conduct a study related to motor vehicle accidents on state roads contiguous with water bodies and requires DOT to submit the report to Legislature. The bill passed through the Highways and Waterways Safety Subcommittee, it is now in the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. It does not appear to have opposition but has undergone some technical and operational amendments.

**SB 756 – Transportation (Brandes)** – This is the FDOT bill and it contains a number of provisions. The bill creates the FDOT Financing Corporation, transfers the Pinellas Bayway System to the Turnpike, increases the funding for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program from \$15M to \$25M, establishes Florida DOT as the lead agency for the NEPA process on highway projects and revises airport zoning regulations. This bill has passed out of committees without a single dissenting vote and is now on the Senate Floor.

**SB 7000 – Developments of Regional Impact (Community Affairs general bill)** – This bill would increase the acreage for annexation of “enclaves” from 10 acres to 150 acres. An enclave is any unincorporated improved or developed area lying within a single municipality, or surrounded by a single municipality and a manmade or natural obstacle that permits traffic to enter only through the municipality. This bill has passed out of two committees and is now in the Fiscal Policy Committee.

**SB 786 – Electric Vehicles (Sachs)** – This bill gives a tax exemption for electric vehicles and would require a study of a mileage based user tax. The bill has not been heard in any committee and appears to be stalled. A similar bill is in the House (HB661), it also has not been heard in any committee and appears to be stalled.

**SB 416 – Location of Utilities (Flores)** – This bill would require a state or local government to bear the responsibility for the cost of relocating utility facilities in public easement if there is not an agreement to the contrary. This bill has passed out of committees and is headed to the Senate floor.

**SB 1392 – Transportation (Brandes)** – This bill would require traffic control devices in school zones that do not conform to the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) be removed by Florida DOT. Also makes a number of changes specific to the operation and regulation of autonomous vehicles. One provision requires MPOs to accommodate advances in vehicle technology when developing LRTPs. The bill also raises the population cap for the Small County Outreach Program from 150,000 to 170,000. The population would allow Charlotte, Martin and Santa Rosa counties to be eligible for the SCOP program, under current population

limits they are not eligible. The bill passed out of the Transportation Committee and is now in Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.