

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB960

Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 960 would adopt the Transportation Innovation Act. The Act would establish, prescribe the authority of, and fund the Transportation Infrastructure Bank, provide a statement of legislative intent and prescribe reporting requirements for the Nebraska Department of Roads relating to the completion of the Nebraska expressway system, and provides authority to the Nebraska Department of Roads to implement and utilize alternative contracting methods for the construction of state transportation projects.

The Transportation Infrastructure Bank will consist of three programs:

accelerate the State Highway Capital Improvement Program, including the designated expressway system;

create a voluntary county bridge match assistance program on a pilot-test basis; and

establish the Economic Opportunity Program. The program would assist in the financing of transportation improvements that attract and support new business development and business expansion.

The Transportation Infrastructure Bank will be funded with the dedication of up to \$150 million from the Cash Reserve Fund along with up to \$150 million of state motor fuel revenue beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2023. The statutory authority for the Transportation Infrastructure Bank will terminate on June 30, 2033.

LB 960 makes a statement of legislative intent that the designated expressway system shall be completed prior to June 30, 2033. The Department of Roads is directed to provide updates on the progress towards that goal each December 1 as a part of the annual highway needs report process.

Finally, LB 960 authorizes the Department of Roads to utilize alternative methods of contracting state transportation projects, specifically authorizing the use of the Construction Manager/General Contractor and Design Build contracting methods. These methods will

provide the Department the ability, on certain large-scale projects, to deliver projects in a faster, more cost efficient manner.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jim Smith