

Date: 3-1-21

House Transportation Committee

Bill: 3rd Sub. SB 113 Transportation Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Christofferson

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: amends provisions related to transportation, public transit, towing, and other related items.

Discussion: Sen. Harper said he would be speaking to the third substitute, which makes technical changes and removes leasing from the bill. The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies is concerned about lines 273-277. They read it as saying that any damage on public property cannot be depreciated. Rep. Ward said when something is damaged, you can think of it as how much it costs to repair, or you can consider how much value it held. He doesn't see the difference between A and B. The Utah School Boards Association and the Utah Superintendents Association were concerned about the section pertaining to leasing. They support the third substitute. Utah Transit Authority supports the bill. Rep. Harrison asked about the leasing issue. Sen. Harper said that was resolved through the normal purchasing process. Linda Hull spoke on behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation, explaining the thought process between lines 275-276. If a guardrail can be repaired, they'll do so. If it can't be, they'll replace it. This language gives them the ability for the maintenance shed to be reimbursed for the cost. Mike Sontag spoke on behalf of Bear River Insurance and the American Property Insurance Association. He noted that the taxpayers pay for that damage one way or the other. Insurance only steps in when the public or the automobile driver is held liable for the repair or replacement. Everyone would like replacement when someone damages their property. Rep. Johnson asked if this is just for public property. Mr. Sontag said yes. This bill only applies to state roads. The third substitute was adopted.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 1

N/V: 3

Outcome: 3rd Sub. SB 113 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.