

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

February 25, 2010

1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Albert Kookesh, Chair
Senator Linda Menard, Vice Chair
Senator Bettye Davis
Senator Kevin Meyer
Senator Joe Paskvan

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 114(TRA) AM

"An Act relating to availability of state transportation facilities and state-owned or state-operated transportation modes for delivering compassionate aid."

- MOVED SCS CSHB 114(TRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 280

"An Act designating the bridge to be built on the Dalton Highway at approximately mile post 308 as the Sam Schuyler Memorial Bridge."

- MOVED SB 280 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 114

SHORT TITLE: USE STATE TRANS FACILITY FOR DISASTER AID

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) RAMRAS

02/04/09	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/04/09	(H)	TRA, FIN
02/17/09	(H)	TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
02/17/09	(H)	Heard & Held; Assigned to Subcommittee
02/17/09	(H)	MINUTE (TRA)
03/12/09	(H)	TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/12/09	(H)	Moved CSHB 114(TRA) Out of Committee
03/12/09	(H)	MINUTE (TRA)
03/13/09	(H)	TRA RPT CS (TRA) NT 3DP 2NR
03/13/09	(H)	DP: MUNOZ, JOHNSON, GRUENBERG

03/13/09 (H) NR: JOHANSEN, WILSON
04/07/09 (H) FIN RPT CS (TRA) NT 6DP 1NR
04/07/09 (H) DP: THOMAS, AUSTERMAN, FAIRCLOUGH,
JOULE, HAWKER, STOLTZE
04/07/09 (H) NR: SALMON
04/07/09 (H) FIN AT 8:30 AM HOUSE FINANCE 519
04/07/09 (H) Moved CSHB 114(TRA) Out of Committee
04/07/09 (H) MINUTE (FIN)
04/15/09 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
04/15/09 (H) VERSION: CSHB 114(TRA) AM
04/16/09 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/16/09 (S) TRA, FIN
02/04/10 (S) TRA AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/04/10 (S) Heard & Held
02/04/10 (S) MINUTE (TRA)
02/25/10 (S) TRA AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SB 280

SHORT TITLE: SAM SCHUYLER MEMORIAL BRIDGE

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) PASKVAN

02/15/10 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/15/10 (S) TRA, FIN
02/25/10 (S) TRA AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

JANE PIERSON, Staff
to Representative Jay Ramras
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified that the sponsor agrees to the Senate CS for HB 114.

GAIL VOIGTLANDER, Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
Department of Law (DOL)

POSITION STATEMENT: Available for questions on HB 114.

ANNA SORENSEN, Staff
to Senator Paskvan
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Introduced SB 280 on behalf of the sponsor.

CLARK MILNE, Maintenance Engineer
Northern Region

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 280.

MEADOW BAILEY, Public Information Officer
Northern Region,
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions related to SB 280.

MARY SIROKY, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions related to SB 280.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:00:46 PM](#)

CHAIR ALBERT KOOKESH called the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Senators Menard, Paskvan, Meyer, and Kookesh were present at the call to order. Senator Davis arrived soon thereafter.

HB 114-USE STATE TRANS FACILITY FOR DISASTER AID

[1:01:14 PM](#)

CHAIR KOOKESH announced the consideration of HB 114. [CSHB 114(JUD) am was before the committee.]

SENATOR PASKVAN withdrew the motion to strike subsection (b), which he made during the 2/4/10 hearing. He moved to adopt the Senate Transportation CS for CSHB 114, labeled 26-LS0505\W, as the working document. There being no objection, version W was before the committee.

[1:02:01 PM](#)

SENATOR DAVIS joined the committee.

JANE PIERSON, Staff to Representative Jay Ramras, thanked the committee for the work it did on the bill. It was never the sponsor's intention to give state equipment to a nonprofit to use, she said. The intention was always for a state employee to operate state equipment.

CHAIR KOOKESH stated for the record that the committee directed the sponsor to work with Senator Paskvan to resolve the differences.

SENATOR PASKVAN said he is satisfied and believes that it's appropriate for the bill to move forward.

GAIL VOIGTLANDER, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Department of Law (DOL), offered to answer questions about how the changes came about.

CHAIR KOOKESH found no questions and closed public testimony. He asked the will of the committee.

[1:04:32 PM](#)

SENATOR PASKVAN thanked the sponsor for working with his office.

SENATOR MENARD moved to report the Senate CS, 26-LS0505\W, [for HB 114] from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, SCS CSSB 114(TRA) moved from Senate Transportation Standing Committee.

At ease from 1:05 p.m. to 1:07 p.m.

SB 280-SAM SCHUYLER MEMORIAL BRIDGE

[1:07:30 PM](#)

CHAIR KOOKESH announced the consideration of SB 280.

SENATOR PASKVAN, Sponsor of SB 280, said that earlier this year the northern region director of maintenance and operation for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) asked him to sponsor a bill naming a bridge on the Dalton Highway for Sam Schuyler, a late employee of the department. He highlighted that the bridge will be in Senator Kookesh's district, Mr. Schuyler was represented by Senator Coghill, and the DOTPF northern region is headquartered in his district.

[1:09:10 PM](#)

ANNA SORENSEN, Staff to Senator Paskvan, said SB 280 names a bridge to be built at mile 308 on the Dalton Highway as the Sam Schuyler Memorial Bridge. She reported that Sam Schuyler began his career with DOTPF as a heavy equipment operator at the Jim River maintenance station and quickly became foreman. Later he was promoted to roving foremen for the Dalton Highway District. He was known to be thorough and always felt that the safety of those working and traveling on the Dalton Highway was of the utmost importance. He was still a department employee when he passed unexpectedly on January 1, 2007.

MS. SORENSEN noted that the bridge that will be built at Mile 308 will replace a culvert. The fiscal note reflects the cost of the bridge and the signage.

SENATOR MENARD commented that Mr. Schuyler made his mark with DOTPF and deserves this recognition.

[1:12:21 PM](#)

CLARK MILNE, Northern Region Maintenance Engineer, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), said Mr. Schuyler was the guy that went out in a storm and used innovation to get things done. He noted the numerous letters of appreciation in the packet.

SENATOR MENARD reviewed a picture of the proposed sign in the packet and asked if the actual sign will be brown. She thought the standard was green.

SENATOR PASKVAN said he's sure it will conform to the appropriate signage standards.

[1:14:31 PM](#)

MEADOW BAILEY, Public Information Officer, Northern Region, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), said she understands that the sign was designed by the DOTPF traffic and safety department. The standard color is brown for a sign that names a bridge.

MARY SIROKY, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), confirmed that the standard for bridge memorial/naming signs is brown. Green signs are directional.

CHAIR KOOKESH closed public testimony. Finding no comments or questions, asked the will of the committee.

SENATOR MENARD moved to report SB 280 from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, SB 280 moved from the Senate Transportation Standing Committee.

[1:16:18 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Kookesh adjourned the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 1:16 p.m.