

S.F. No. 2569 –Municipal Approval of Guideways

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Section 1 [Municipal approval of guideway plans] requires municipal approval for guideway plans made by the Metropolitan Council and makes receiving federal funds for projects contingent on receiving municipal approval. Authorizes municipalities to revoke their approval of municipal guideway plans under certain circumstances. Effective the day following final enactment and applies to all current and future guideways, except the Gold Line bus rapid transit project.

Subdivision 1 defines “guideway” to mean a form of transportation service that operates primarily within separated rights-of-way. Does not include light rail transit lines.

Subdivision 2 requires the Metropolitan Council to hold a public hearing on the physical design component of a guideway before final design plans are prepared. Requires the Metropolitan Council to summarize the proceedings and maintain a record of the hearing.

Subdivision 3 requires the Metropolitan Council to submit the physical design component to each city, county, or town in which the route is proposed to be located. Requires a public hearing in each city, county, or town in which the route is proposed to be located. Establishes a 45 day-limit for cities, counties, or towns to approve or disapprove a route to be located. Authorizes cities, counties, or towns to submit amendments to a planned guideway route that would cause the local unit of government to withdraw its objections.

Subdivision 4 requires the Metropolitan Council to hold a second hearing if a local unit of government objects to a preliminary design plan under **subdivision 3**. Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to review objections, conduct an independent study, and attempt to mediate differences. Requires the Metropolitan Council to review plans within 60 days of the second public hearing and determine what amendments, if any, must be made to accommodate the objections of disapproving local governments. Requires amendments to plans be made before continuing with planning and designing.

Subdivision 5 requires the Metropolitan Council to submit to local units of government final design plans if the final plans incorporate a substantial change from the preliminary design

plan. Substantial changes include changes to the location, length, or termini of routes; general dimension, elevation, or alignment of routes or crossings; or the location of any shelters or stops.

Subdivision 6 permits local units of government to revoke approval of guideway plans at any point to the Metropolitan Council securing federal funding for the project.

Subdivision 7 prohibits the Metropolitan Council from applying or requesting federal funds for a guideway project until each local government in which the route is proposed to be located has approved of the guideway design plans.