

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2001 LB 245

corridor to determine whether or not there was good reason to move ahead with trying to do something with respect to rail transportation between these two major centers of population in our state. Now the...the Rail Advisory Council came to me and asked us to extend this for two years. They have...in the process of submitting a transportation and community grant request to the Federal Highway Administration. Those grants will be awarded in October of 2001 and LB 245 would give the council extra time to secure funding and complete the feasibility study and report the findings to the Legislature. Now, are we assured of getting funding? We certainly are not, but we have a group of people who are certainly...they've put in a lot of volunteer time on this thing and...and the...the handout that I passed around gives you the names of those individuals that have been on the Rail Advisory Council and I have talked with a number of them and...and they have...they've worked hard and...and if we're going to give this a serious look, and I think we should, we've got good people there to try to look over this. There isn't...we're not asking for an A bill or an appropriation with this bill. We're simply asking that this council be extended, with their duties and powers, for two years to see if they can secure some funding and get this study done. So that is the essence of it. We did have...we had a hearing. We had about three proponents and Department of Roads was neutral and we didn't have any...any opponents, so that is it, Mr. President. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. We're open for discussion on advancement of LB 245. There are no lights on, Senator Bromm. Did you wish your option to close? He waives closing. The question before the body is advancement of LB 245 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the advancement of LB 245. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 245.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 45 (sic--LB 245) does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.