



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 639

Chairperson: Tom Baker
Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications
Date of Hearing: February 14, 2005

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

LB 639 amends two sections of the state statutes relating to Nebraska's highways.

To start, the bill provides a definition for "beltway" in §39-1302 as "roads, streets, and highways not designated as a part of the state highway system and that are under the primary authority of a political or governmental subdivision, if the location of the beltway has been approved by (a) record of decision of the federal highway administration and (b) the applicable local planning authority as a part of the comprehensive plan."

LB 639 then amends §39-1311, which currently directs the Department of Roads to prepare a map of any corridor location approval for a proposed state highway, to prepare such a map also for any proposed beltway.

By making these changes, LB 639 ensures that a proposed beltway that has been approved following expensive planning and study, including an examination of its anticipated environmental impact, receives corridor protection similar to that enjoyed already by the Department of Roads. Doing so will prevent such a project from being obstructed by subsequent development of an area that the beltway has been planned to traverse.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Carol Hudkins