



The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Better business. Better community.

To: Indiana General Assembly
From: Christopher J Emge, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy
Date: February 6, 2024
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 52

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce writes to express our opposition to Indiana State Senate Bill 52. This would restrict the implementation of dedicated lanes for public transit projects. We believe this bill would have significant negative consequences for the economic development, sustainability, and overall well-being of our community and urge its defeat.

Our three concerns with Senate Bill 52 are as follows:

Community Planning: Senate Bill 52 undermines local planning efforts and decision-making. Our community is on the cusp of carefully considering an East/West Express Route. A feasibility study is currently under contract from local funds to probe this initiative to create the optimum route. This will likely include a few small segments of dedicated bus lanes to enhance safety and reliability. Bloomington and its urban ring are a high-density area that is ideal for transit. The bill disregards such local planning and imposes a one-size-fits-all approach that does not address the specific needs and circumstances of different communities.

Economic Development: Public transportation is a critical component of attracting and retaining businesses and talent. Dedicated lanes can improve the reliability and efficiency of buses, making them a more attractive alternative to cars. This, in turn, can reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make our community more appealing to businesses and residents alike. By hindering the development of dedicated lanes, Senate Bill 52 threatens to impede our economic growth and competitiveness. The business community strongly supports enhancing our current transit system.

Transportation Fairness: Access to reliable and affordable transportation is essential for all residents, regardless of their income or car ownership status. Dedicated lanes can improve access to jobs, education opportunities, and essential services for low-income individuals and communities. Senate Bill 52 disproportionately harms these vulnerable populations by limiting their transportation options.

We urge you to oppose Senate Bill 52 and instead support policies that promote efficient, sustainable, and equitable transportation options for all Hoosiers.