

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 313 (Frazier) – As Amended March 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account: University of California: California State University: reports

SUMMARY: Requires the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) to annually report on research funded by SB 1 (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the UC and CSU to submit a report by January 1 of each year detailing the expenditure of funding provided in the previous fiscal year.
- 2) Requires the reports to include, but not be limited to, research activities and administration.
- 3) Requires the report be submitted to the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), the Assembly Committee on Transportation, the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the UC system, under the administration of the Board of Regents, and CSU system, under the administration of the Board of Trustees.
- 2) Encourages the Regents of the UC system to create an Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) and cooperate with CalSTA and its departments on transportation research and training.
- 3) Provides, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$5 million per year to UC and \$2 million per year to CSU for the purpose of conducting transportation research and transportation-related workforce education, training, and development.
- 4) Authorizes the Secretary of CalSTA and the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Transportation Committees to annually send a recommended priority list of research components to be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: ITS at the UC was established by the Legislature in 1947 at UC Berkeley to conduct research on a wide array of transportation topics. Today, ITS has grown to four UC Campuses: UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Davis and UCLA. In addition to UC ITS, the CSU's also have the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at CSU San Jose, which was established by Congress in 1991, as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA).

In 2017, the Legislature passed SB 1, (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017, which provides over \$5 billion per year for roads, transit and active transportation programs. Additionally, SB 1 included a commitment to transportation research programs by dedicating \$5 million to the UCs

and \$2 million to the CSUs annually to conduct transportation-related research and transportation-related workforce education. SB 1 calls for the research programs to be informed by input from the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Transportation Committees and the Secretary of CalSTA.

Prior to the passage of SB 1, core funding for the UC ITS program was provided by the Legislature in an annual appropriation of \$980,000 from the Public Transportation Account. Until 2017, the appropriation remained largely unchanged since the 1940s. UC ITS has been able to leverage this funding at a nearly 30-to-1 ratio, pulling in approximately \$30 million per year from other government sources, including federal funding, as well as from private industry and foundations.

Both UC ITS and CSU MTI programs also receive funding from the federal government through the surface transportation reauthorization acts, which support transportation-related research at numerous universities around the country. In fact, MTI successfully competed to be named a Tier 1 Center in 2002 and 2006 in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Additionally, UC ITS and MTI receive funding, through specific research requests, from state agencies such as the California Department of Transportation and the California Air Resources Board.

The passage of SB 1 represents a dramatic increase in dedicated state funding for both university systems. In fact, in response to SB 1, MTI spearheaded the creation of the CSU Transportation Consortium, made up of CSU Chico, CSU Fresno, and CSU Long Beach to conduct SB 1-related research and workforce development activities.

According to the author, “while the Legislature provided a dramatic increase in research dollars for UC ITS and CSU, no transparency and accountability measures were provided to ensure the money is being spent as intended and to ensure the research outcomes are shared with Members of the Legislature and the public to better inform policy debate. AB 313 is an accountability measure that requires both the UCs and CSUs to prepare an annual report to the Legislature and CalSTA that will include the research activities and administrative expenses paid for by SB 1 dollars.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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