FISCAL IMPACT: ☐ State ☒ Local ☐ Statutory Public Entity ☐ Conditional ☐ No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number:	LLS 17-0390	**Date:**	January 20, 2017
Prime Sponsor(s):	Rep. Mitsch Bush; Liston	**Bill Status:**	House Transportation and Energy
	Sen. Gardner	**Fiscal Analyst:**	Larson Silbaugh (303-866-4720)

BILL TOPIC: EXTEND VOTER APPROVAL WINDOW FOR RTA MILL LEVY

Summary of Legislation

This bill extends the statutory authority of regional transportation authorities (RTAs) to impose a property tax of five mills until January 1, 2029, if approved by voters within the RTA boundary. Under current law, RTAs are permitted to seek voter approval to levy this property tax until January 1, 2019.

Background

RTAs are formed by two or more local governments to finance, construct, operate, and maintain regional transportation systems. They are authorized to issue bonds to be repaid through several means, including motor vehicle registration fees, sales and use taxes, visitor benefit taxes, and property taxes. Sales and use taxes are the primary source of RTA funding. The creation of RTAs and the imposition of any new taxes must be approved by voters within the proposed authority's boundaries.

The San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation was approved by area voters in the 2016 general election to serve Telluride and eastern San Miguel County. Voters approved a 0.25 percent sales tax and a property tax of 0.75 mills. The San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation property tax is expected to generate about $600,000 per year.

Table 1 shows the RTAs in Colorado.

Table 1
Regional Transportation Authorities in Colorado

Authority	Member Municipalities and Counties	Sales Tax Rate	Use Tax Rate	Property Tax
Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority	A portion of the city of Monument *stopped collecting a 1 percent sales and use tax July 1, 2016, and is completing final projects	1.0%*	1.0%*	None
Gunnison Valley Rural Transportation Authority	All of Gunnison County except the municipalities of Marble, Ohio, Pitkin, and Somerset	0.6%	None	None
	City of Gunnison	0.35%	None	None
Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority	El Paso County except the municipalities of Calhan, Fountain, Monument, and Palmer Lake	1.0%	1.0%	None
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority	Cities of Basalt and New Castle	0.8%	0.8%	None
	Cities of Carbondale and Glenwood Springs	1.0%	1.0%	None
	Cities of Aspen and Snowmass Village, and unincorporated Pitkin County	0.4%	0.4%	None
	Areas of unincorporated Eagle County in the El Jebel area and outside the city limits of Carbondale	0.6%	0.6%	None
San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation	City of Telluride and eastern San Miguel County (excluding towns of Ophir and Sawpit)	0.25%	None	0.75 mills
South Platte Valley Regional Transportation Authority	City of Sterling	0.1%	0.1%	None

Source: Department of Revenue

Local Government Impact

San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation. The San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation is expected to collect about $600,000 in property taxes per year. This bill would make clear that the statutory authority to collect that revenue continues until January 1, 2029.

Conditional impact on other local governments. The bill extends the statutory authority of local governments, acting through RTAs, to levy a property tax. Because the property taxes are subject to approval by voters within the RTA, this impact is conditional. Any costs for conducting the election would be paid by the local governments affiliated with the RTA. If a property tax is approved, any costs for issuing bonds and making transportation improvements will be paid from tax proceeds. These costs have not been estimated at this time.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Assessors	Information Technology	Local Affairs
Property Tax	Revenue	Special Districts
Transportation		