

HB4759



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4759

by Rep. Theresa Mah

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Green Light for Buses Act. Establishes the Committee on Efficient Arterial Signal Infrastructure to make recommendations to improve public transit efficiency via improvements to traffic signal infrastructure. Publishes a report to the Department of Transportation for inclusion in the Public Transportation Plan. Grants implementing authority. Defines terms. Effective immediately.

LRB104 19857 LNS 33307 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Green
5 Light for Buses Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Authority" means the Northern Illinois Transit Authority.

8 "Committee" means the Committee on Efficient Arterial
9 Signal Infrastructure established under this Act.

10 "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

11 "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

12 "Service Board" means the Board of the Commuter Rail
13 Division of the Authority, the Board of the Suburban Bus
14 Division of the Authority, and the Board of the Chicago
15 Transit Authority established pursuant to the Chicago Transit
16 Authority Act.

17 "Traffic capacity" means the designed capacity for traffic
18 volume on a roadway facility.

19 "Traffic volume" means the number of persons moved through
20 a corridor in a given period of time, across all travel modes.

21 "Transit signal priority" or "TSP" means the operational
22 strategies and associated equipment, software, communications,
23 and timing changes that improve the movement of public

1 transportation vehicles through signalized intersections.

2 "Vehicle traffic capacity" means the designed capacity for
3 vehicle traffic volume on a roadway facility.

4 "Vehicle traffic volume" means the number of motor
5 vehicles traveling through a corridor in a given period.

6 Section 10. Establishment of the Committee.

7 (a) The Committee on Efficient Arterial Signal
8 Infrastructure shall be established to advise the Department
9 on strategies and initiatives to improve public transit
10 service efficiency and reliability through roadway and
11 signalization infrastructure improvements in a metropolitan
12 region.

13 (b) The Committee shall make recommendations to increase
14 the traffic capacity of roadway corridors within a
15 metropolitan region, and that maintain or reduce the vehicle
16 traffic capacity of those same corridors.

17 (c) As needed, the Committee shall coordinate with:

18 (1) the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation
19 Infrastructure Funding and Policy; and

20 (2) the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transit
21 Innovation, Integration, and Reform.

22 (d) The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair, but
23 not less than quarterly.

24 The Committee shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act
25 and the Freedom of Information Act.

1 (e) The Department shall provide administrative support to
2 the Committee.

3 Subject to appropriation and applicable procurement law,
4 the Department may procure consulting assistance necessary to
5 support the work of the Committee.

6 (f) The Committee shall, at a minimum:

7 (1) inventory and review existing traffic
8 signalization and central signal system infrastructure,
9 including compatibility among traffic signal equipment,
10 transit vehicles, and communications systems used by
11 public transportation providers in the metropolitan
12 region;

13 (2) develop strategies and recommendations to expand
14 transit signal priority and related transit-supportive
15 signal operations that increase traffic capacity and
16 improve transit travel-time reliability;

17 (3) recommend practices that support coordinated or
18 regionalized signal operations across jurisdictions and
19 transit operators, including data standards,
20 interoperability, and procurement best practices;

21 (4) develop objectives and recommended approaches for
22 providing technical assistance to units of local
23 government and transit operators for implementation of the
24 Committee's recommendations;

25 (5) estimate costs associated with procuring,
26 installing, operating, maintaining, and replacing signal

1 priority infrastructure;

2 (6) estimate economic impacts associated with the
3 Committee's recommendations;

4 (7) estimate, where practicable, anticipated changes
5 in traffic volume and vehicle traffic volume associated
6 with the Committee's recommendations;

7 (8) identify opportunities to align or modify existing
8 and future Department funding programs and grant criteria
9 to support implementation, including criteria that reward
10 measurable improvements in traffic volume capacity; and

11 (9) submit recommendations for inclusion in the
12 Department's Public Transportation Plan, including any
13 recommended legislative or administrative changes needed
14 to implement best practices.

15 (A) The Committee shall publish a report with its
16 recommendations no later than 2 years after the
17 effective date of this Act.

18 (B) The Department shall post the report on its
19 website and transmit the report to the Governor and
20 the General Assembly.

21 (C) The Department shall incorporate any
22 recommendations included in the Committee's report in
23 the Department's next annual update of the Public
24 Transportation Plan.

25 (g) The Committee shall include the following members,
26 appointed by the Secretary:

1 (1) the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, who
2 shall serve as Chair;

3 (2) the Department's Region 1 Engineer or the
4 Engineer's designee;

5 (3) one staff member from the Department's Office of
6 Finance and Administration whose duties involve transit
7 grant administration or procurement;

8 (4) one staff member from the Department's Office of
9 Highways Project Implementation whose duties involve the
10 operations of local roads and streets;

11 (5) one staff member from the Office of Intermodal
12 Project Implementation whose duties involve transit
13 oversight;

14 (6) one staff member from the Office of Highway
15 Planning and Implementation whose duties include planning
16 in urban areas;

17 (7) one staff member representing the Northern
18 Illinois Transit Authority, as designated by the Chairman
19 of the Board of the Authority;

20 (8) one staff member representing the Chicago Transit
21 Authority, as designated by the Chairman of the Board of
22 the Chicago Transit Authority;

23 (9) one staff member representing the Suburban Bus
24 Division, as designated by the Chairman of the Suburban
25 Bus Board;

26 (10) one staff member representing the Chicago

1 Metropolitan Agency for Planning;

2 (11) one staff member representing the Chicago
3 Department of Transportation, as designated by the Mayor
4 of Chicago;

5 (12) one staff member representing the Cook County
6 Department of Transportation and Highways, as designated
7 by the President of the Cook County Board of
8 Commissioners;

9 (13) one staff member representing the DuPage County
10 Division of Transportation, as designated by the Chairman
11 of the DuPage County Board;

12 (14) at the discretion of their respective County
13 Board Chairmans, one or more staff members representing
14 the Counties of Lake, Will, Kane, or McHenry that are
15 involved in planning, design, construction, maintenance,
16 and permitted use of roadways; and

17 (15) additional members as determined necessary by the
18 Secretary to ensure subject-matter expertise, community
19 representation, and geographic diversity.

20 Members shall serve without compensation. To the extent
21 permitted by law and subject to appropriation, members may be
22 reimbursed for necessary expenses associated with Committee
23 service in accordance with applicable State travel rules.

24 The Chair may dissolve the Committee following the
25 publication of the report.

1 Section 15. Implementation authorization.

2 (a) Under the supervision of the Secretary, and for the
3 benefit of a Service Board, the Authority may, by ordinance,
4 establish and administer a transit signal priority program for
5 public transportation vehicles in the metropolitan region.

6 The Authority may provide funding, procure equipment and
7 services, and enter into intergovernmental agreements or other
8 agreements necessary to plan, design, implement, operate, and
9 maintain transit signal priority and signal priority
10 infrastructure on public ways in the metropolitan region.

11 Nothing in this Section authorizes the installation,
12 modification, operation, or maintenance of traffic control
13 devices except in accordance with the Illinois Vehicle Code,
14 the Illinois Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and
15 applicable federal requirements.

16 Transit signal priority implemented under this Section
17 shall not impair emergency vehicle signal preemption, railroad
18 signal preemption, or other safety-critical signal operations
19 required by law or engineering standards.

20 For highways and streets under the jurisdiction of the
21 Department, implementation under this Section is subject to
22 the Department's approval and permitting requirements.

23 For highways and streets under the jurisdiction of a unit
24 of local government, implementation under this Section shall
25 be carried out pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement with
26 the unit of local government having maintenance jurisdiction.

1 A unit of local government shall not unreasonably withhold
2 agreement for transit signal priority improvements that are
3 consistent with this subsection and that are funded in whole
4 or in part by the Authority or the Department.

5 (b) For any Department-funded project in the metropolitan
6 region that includes the installation, modernization,
7 replacement, or retiming of traffic signals on a roadway that
8 is served by fixed-route bus service operated by, or under
9 contract with, a Service Board, the Department shall evaluate
10 the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of including design
11 features and equipment accommodations that support transit
12 signal priority implementation.

13 Where the Department determines transit signal priority is
14 feasible, cost-effective, and consistent with applicable
15 safety and traffic control standards, the Department shall
16 incorporate transit signal priority accommodations into the
17 project design.

18 Nothing in this subsection requires the Department to fund
19 or install onboard equipment on public transportation
20 vehicles, or to implement transit signal priority where doing
21 so would conflict with applicable safety or traffic control
22 standards.

23 Section 20. Repeal.

24 (a) This Act is repealed on the date that is 10 years after
25 its effective date.

1 (b) The repeal of Section 2.06.3 of the Regional
2 Transportation Authority Act does not affect:

3 (1) any ordinance adopted, agreement executed, or
4 procurement commenced under that Section before the repeal
5 of the Act; or

6 (2) the continued operation or maintenance of signal
7 priority infrastructure installed before the repeal of the
8 Act, to the extent authorized under other applicable law.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.