Twitter Thread by TransitGeekJoe

TransitGeekJoe
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I'm excited to help #waleg build back better today.

Rep. @wickse's HB 1329 is exactly how.

While #idleg Rep @MeganBlanksma work to silence #healthcareheroes public health boards, we're working to let more voices be heard. That's building back better. That's leadership for you.

Here is how we #buildbackbetter... @wickse HB 1329 will:

a) Allow public comment, including an online component regardless if the meeting is in-person or online

b) Require recordings be retained of public meetings

c) Put in minutes why an executive session to exclude ze public

Watch us today. ■■

@TVWnews link: https://t.co/WBNULbIkR9

Three bills on deck today... so might be a while before HB 1329. Will live-tweet out ze action as able.

But we will have a real hearing with real testimony & real sunlight as we work to build back better.

We also have HB 1180, a weak @WaHouseGOP #opengov bill with a lot of testimony to come also. Bill doesn't go far enough as I'll explain. Basically no online public comment option.

But enough about weak bills. HB 1180 won't go anywhere.

More worried about the concern trolling to amend and likely weaken HB 1329. #waleg has way too many lobbyists who don't work for the people but for the government bench as you can see below.

With that, the hearing has started and thankfully my @zoom_us app is working.

@TVWnews link: https://t.co/WBNULbIkR9

HB 1180 & HB 1329 hearing starts now... going to be a bit complex. Good my speeches align with Rep. Pollet's request for general principles, then notes.

Now, Rep. Kraft...

Now Rep. Kraft is speaking about adapting to new format. Keeps using the word format.

"Took a look at the overall process of public meetings".

Wants to ensure public participation.

Rep. Kraft worries about viewability and talks about the (limited) options of HB 1180. Notes her bill allows folks to have staff read in comments.

(JOE NOTE: As I recall @MyCommTrans tried this in March and it got to be a bit much.)

#opengov #waleg

Rep. Kraft worries about how the public wasn't heard. Says the bill will make the bill transparent & accountable to the public & participation.

(JOE NOTE: This doesn't go far enough.)

Now Rep. Pollet asks Rep. Kraft if the bill allows for a time limit on public comment... worried about testimony being read out loud and denying the ability to set a time limit. Rep. Kraft notes that the time limit is OK.

Another Q from Rep. Goehner on remote access.

Rep. Kraft - who is breaking up - "will take a further look at that".

Now I understand there is a YouTube link: https://t.co/mX7eQ6G1UH

That may work better than TVW for you.

Moving forward, Kellen Wright of #Waleg is now briefing the committee staff.

Basic explainer of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). You can read the circa 1971 act here: https://t.co/Ogvlmmi2l5

Now talking about...

More of a RCW 42.30 primer...

(JOE NOTE: I hope nobody at #waleg - but especially Kellen take this the wrong way - but this should have been typed up and sent as night-before homework.)

Finally a reference that the OPMA doesn't discuss either public comment or remote attendance.

Good, the "terrific primer" is done as per Rep. Pollet. Joe agrees. Now about to have testimony start... but first Rep. Pollet brings up the training requirement.

CC: @WashingtonCOG

Everybody in testimony gets 2.5 minutes, but 2 is preferred. Panels of 3 will be called up.

But first Rep @wickse on the good bill. It's gametime!

"Accessible for all" "continue to provide public access" and "public testimony". Local governments can pick online or hybrid.

Rep. @wickse notes issues w/ public records acts. Also so grateful she worked with me to address risks to budgets. "The power to govern rests with the people."

I stan, I stan...

"Lack of access" endangers "public trust" and when trust is lost, trust

And thanks Rep. @wickse for talking about me...

So much to type out. But I'm getting TWO wet eyes here...

Now time for QP.

No questions. Whew.

Clearly I gotta use https://t.co/p7CtHpuRnk just on that speech ASARP.

OK, back to HB 1180 the aforementioned bill by @WaHouseGOP Rep. Kraft. Good intentions, doesn't go far enough.

Now Qs about HB 1180 to staff.

First Q and follow-up by Rep. Goehner is about issues of emergency. "Just thinking about some of the natural disasters" our state could have.

(JOE NOTE: I think he means volcanic eruptions, floods or earthquakes.)

More healthy discussion about notice. HB 1056 which addresses this now being brought up.

Finally HB 1180 testimony.

Don Land, Gary Wilson & Jennifer ?

Now talking about drag queens story hour and how resisting that becomes a public meeting issue.

I'm going to get a drink of water.

Now a good speech by Gary Wilson. Worried about how public input is being disconnected.

Gary is making a good case to enshrine public comments as a RIGHT in the OPMA.

Gary also is open to removing the emergency clause in HB 1180.

Now Jennifer Heine-Withee is speaking. "We are the ones who voted" the electeds into office. Demands listening.

(JOE NOTE: I can assure her that HB 1329 will remind government officials of this.)

Now @AWCities @AWC_Candice Bock concern trolling... not too happy about more public input.

Good question to me from Rep. Pollet where I got to explain the problems for transit-dependent folks to access the meeting.

Problem is now we have Victoria Lincoln of State Ports is wanting amendments.

Now Dawn Seaver pro-HB 1180