(6) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY. (a) In this subsection:

1. “Authority” means the regional transportation authority.

2. “Region” means the geographic area composed of the counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha.

(b) The counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha shall create a regional transportation authority. The governing body of the authority shall consist of the following members:

1. Seven members nominated by the governor, and with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, for 3–year terms, with each member designated to represent one of the counties in the region.

2. The secretary of transportation or his or her designee.

3. Three other members who are nominated by the governor, and with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, for 3–year terms.

(c) The authority shall be responsible for the coordination of highway and transit programs in the region and for other responsibilities as specified for the authority by the legislature.

(d) The department of transportation may provide administrative support services to assist the authority in fulfilling its duties.

(e) By November 15, 1992, the authority shall submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report on the activities of the authority. The report shall include all of the following:

1. A plan to improve the coordination and priority of federal, state and local expenditures for highways in the region that have a demonstrably regional impact.

2. A recommendation on additional functional responsibilities for the authority concerning highways in the region.

3. A plan to improve the coordinating and funding of expanded public transit in the region.

3m. A recommendation on whether a transit security force should be created under the jurisdiction of the authority to provide for the public safety of transit programs in the region.

3r. A recommendation on the use of bonding for public transit in the region, and the role of the authority in such bonding.

4. Recommendations for the assignment of responsibilities between the authority, the department of transportation and other governmental units, including any multicounty regional planning commission organized under s. 66.0309 that is located in the region.

5. A proposal that specifically identifies a permanent regional funding source to provide local funds for highway improvements in the region that have a demonstrably regional impact, and for the local portion of operating and capital costs of public transit that are not covered by passenger fares. In making its proposal, the authority shall consider at least the following funding sources:

   a. A local gas tax.

   b. A local vehicle registration fee.

   c. A local sales tax.

   d. A local motor fuel sales tax.

6. A recommendation on whether the authority should continue in existence after September 30, 1993.

History: 1995 a. 201 ss. 197, 231, 386, 388, 465, 466 to 474; 1997 a. 27, 35; 1999 a. 150 s. 672.

Section 59.968 (3) [now s. 59.58 (3) (c)] authorizes a county to subsidize a bus company operating a route principally located within the county, even though the route is only 5% of the company’s total business. 65 Atty. Gen. 191.