
HOUSE BILL 1222

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Tarleton, Orcutt, Shea, Rodne, Gregerson,
and McBride

Read first time 01/13/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a bistate bridge project
2 legislative work group; and adding a new section to chapter 47.01
3 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The legislature finds that both Washington and Oregon
8 recognize the need for improving the capacity of Interstate 5
9 adjacent to and over the Columbia river, in addition to the
10 development of new regional corridors, and that the legislatures of
11 each state need basic oversight of the process. The legislature
12 recognizes that the development of bistate bridge projects takes
13 years of hard work and difficult decisions and that to achieve
14 development of successful bistate bridge projects it must be pursued
15 in a manner that will build and maintain bistate trust and positive
16 working relationships to ensure economic growth and productivity in
17 the entire region before reaching a federal record of decision. The
18 legislature also recognizes that in-area legislators will be called
19 upon to seek funding of any projects developed and, therefore, must
20 be involved in the development of the projects from the beginning.

1 (b) The legislature further finds that to accomplish the findings
2 in (a) of this subsection it is necessary to form a bistate,
3 bipartisan bridge project legislative work group. Although the
4 primary purpose of this facilitated effort is to establish a process
5 that includes appropriate legislative involvement, it is not the
6 intention to exclude stakeholders or existing experts or useful work
7 products already established. The work group will define and
8 recommend the ongoing legislative role in moving forward with bistate
9 bridge projects and report that recommendation to the legislature for
10 any required action.

11 (2) The bistate bridge project legislative work group is created
12 and must facilitate strong public participation and input throughout
13 the initial development stages to identify the most affordable,
14 efficient project that improves freight mobility and safety, relieves
15 traffic congestion, and meets the future needs of the region and the
16 transportation corridor. The work group must also establish a ten-
17 year plan, a twenty-five year plan, and a fifty-year plan.

18 (3) The bistate bridge project legislative work group must
19 consist of eight bipartisan, bicameral members from each of the
20 Washington and Oregon state legislatures who represent districts in
21 the region, with a preference for members who serve on their
22 respective transportation committees. The caucus leaders of the house
23 and senate shall appoint an equal number of members to serve on the
24 work group. Each legislative member must have an equal vote on
25 matters considered by the work group. The work group must consider
26 options for capacity, safety, sufficiency, public support, and cost-
27 effectiveness in developing a solution to meet the needs of the
28 corridor. To the extent feasible, the design must incorporate
29 existing infrastructure and allow for its future maintenance and
30 improvement.

31 (4) Local, regional, technical, legal, and other planning and
32 transportation resources and stakeholders required for such a project
33 may not be supplanted or precluded from appropriate involvement, but
34 may not have any voting powers.

35 (5) By December 1, 2018, the bistate bridge project legislative
36 work group must report its recommendations to the transportation
37 committees of the legislature and provide annual updates on any

1 projects to the legislature thereafter until the projects are
2 completed.

--- END ---