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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6195**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Rivers, and Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/18.

1       AN ACT Relating to facilitating transportation projects of  
2 statewide significance; adding new sections to chapter 47.05 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington's  
6 transportation needs are increasing as both a surge in trade and  
7 population create demand on the system. Large transportation projects  
8 that provide improvements in accessibility, freight mobility, and  
9 safety, as well as maximize economic development, are critical to  
10 Washington's future. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize  
11 transportation projects of statewide significance, and to expedite  
12 their completion through the establishment of a formal process of  
13 coordination.

14       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16       (1) A transportation project of statewide significance means a  
17 project that will:

18       (a) Improve accessibility for a significant number of Washington  
19 residents;

1 (b) Alleviate congestion and improve the reliability of travel  
2 times for Washington residents and other users of the transportation  
3 system;

4 (c) Improve the movement of freight through the corridor;

5 (d) Provide safety improvements and contribute to a reduction in  
6 injuries and fatalities;

7 (e) Maximize opportunities for economic development in the region  
8 and the state;

9 (f) Make improvement to transit, pedestrian, and bike access; and

10 (g) Serve as a critical route for both national and state  
11 defense.

12 (2) In order to qualify as a transportation project of statewide  
13 significance, the reasonable cost estimate to construct the project  
14 must be at least one billion dollars. Similarly, if a project is to  
15 be constructed in phases, in order to qualify as a transportation  
16 project of statewide significance, the total reasonable cost estimate  
17 to construct all the phases must be at least one billion dollars.  
18 For purposes of this subsection, "cost estimate to construct"  
19 includes costs associated with design, preliminary engineering,  
20 right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) The department shall:

24 (a) Develop an application for designation of transportation  
25 projects as transportation projects of statewide significance. The  
26 application must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the  
27 legislative authority of any jurisdiction that will have the proposed  
28 transportation project of statewide significance within its  
29 boundaries. No designation of a project as a transportation project  
30 of statewide significance shall be made without the letter of  
31 approval, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The  
32 letter of approval must state that the jurisdiction joins in the  
33 request for the designation of the transportation project as one of  
34 statewide significance and has or will hire the professional staff  
35 that will be required to expedite the processes necessary to the  
36 completion of a transportation project of statewide significance. The  
37 transportation project proponents may provide the funding necessary  
38 for the jurisdiction to hire the professional staff that will be  
39 required to so expedite. The application must contain information

1 regarding the location of the project, how the project meets the  
2 criteria specified in section 2 of this act, and other information  
3 required by the department; and

4 (b) Designate a transportation project as a transportation  
5 project of statewide significance if the department determines, after  
6 review of the application under criteria adopted by rule, the  
7 transportation project will meet the criteria listed in section 2(1)  
8 and (2) of this act.

9 (2) Any project designated by the legislature and codified in  
10 this chapter is not subject to the application requirements set out  
11 in subsection (1) of this section. However, the project is subject to  
12 the coordination process in subsection (3) of this section.

13 (3) The department shall assign a project facilitator or  
14 coordinator to each transportation project of statewide significance  
15 to:

16 (a) Assemble a team of state and local government and private  
17 officials to help meet the planning, permitting, and development  
18 needs of each project. The team must include those responsible for  
19 planning, permitting, and licensing, infrastructure development,  
20 workforce development services, transportation services, and the  
21 provision of utilities; and

22 (b) Work with each team member to expedite their actions in  
23 furtherance of the project and coordinate any cross border  
24 communications, if applicable.

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