
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1994

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Wylie, Vick, Stonier, Hoff, and Harris)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

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

21 (b) In order to qualify as a transportation project of statewide
22 significance, the project must also contain a bridge that connects
23 two states that has a reasonable cost estimate to construct of at
24 least five hundred million dollars and would benefit from an
25 expedited permitting process due to preexisting permits.

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

28 (1) The department shall:

29 (a) Develop an application for designation of transportation
30 projects as transportation projects of statewide significance. The
31 application must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the
32 legislative authority of at least one jurisdiction that will have the
33 proposed transportation project of statewide significance within its
34 boundaries. No designation of a project as a transportation project
35 of statewide significance shall be made without the letter of
36 approval, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The
37 letter of approval must state that the jurisdiction joins in the
38 request for the designation of the transportation project as one of
39 statewide significance and has or will hire the professional staff

1 that will be required to expedite the processes necessary to the
2 completion of a transportation project of statewide significance. The
3 transportation project proponents may provide the funding necessary
4 for the jurisdiction to hire the professional staff that will be
5 required to so expedite. The application must contain information
6 regarding the location of the project, how the project meets the
7 criteria specified in section 2 of this act, and other information
8 required by the department; and

9 (b) Designate a transportation project as a transportation
10 project of statewide significance if the department determines, after
11 review of the application under criteria adopted by rule, the
12 transportation project will meet the criteria listed in section 2 (1)
13 and (2) of this act.

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

18 (3) The department shall assign a project facilitator or
19 coordinator to each transportation project of statewide significance
20 to:

21 (a) Assemble a team of state and local government and private
22 officials to help meet the planning, permitting, and development
23 needs of each project. The team must include those responsible for
24 planning, permitting, and licensing, infrastructure development,
25 workforce development services, transportation services, and the
26 provision of utilities; and

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

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