
HOUSE BILL 1994

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Wylie, Vick, Stonier, Hoff, and Harris

Read first time 02/11/19. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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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