
SENATE BILL 5034

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Boehnke, Wellman, Warnick, Short, Lovelett, and Stanford;
by request of Public Works Board

Prefiled 12/13/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the expiration of the interagency,
2 multijurisdictional system improvement team; reenacting and amending
3 RCW 43.155.150; creating a new section; providing an effective date;
4 and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that in the
7 2017 legislative session the public works board and the departments
8 of commerce, ecology, and health were directed to facilitate meetings
9 among state infrastructure programs to identify, implement, and
10 report on system improvements to maximize state investments to
11 benefit communities, minimize overall costs and disturbance to the
12 community, and ensure long-term durability and resilience. The
13 legislature finds that this directive led to an interagency team
14 representing the public works board, the transportation improvement
15 board, and the departments of commerce, ecology, health, and
16 transportation, informally called SYNC, which meets monthly using
17 existing resources to coordinate infrastructure projects and
18 financing to increase efficiencies and reduce costs, helping local
19 governments meet their infrastructure needs.

20 The legislature also recognizes that in the 2021 legislative
21 session, the interagency team's work was extended through June 30,

1 2025. The legislature finds that SYNC's partner agencies are planning
2 the next generation of infrastructure coordination, specifically
3 reaching out to distressed and rural communities across the state
4 that have not yet secured the full benefits of infrastructure
5 assistance and working together on emerging environmental issues
6 facing Washington's communities. The legislature further finds that
7 to maximize the value of state investments across infrastructure
8 programs, it is critical to maintain SYNC's coordination of
9 infrastructure financing, policy, and projects. Therefore, the
10 legislature intends to remove the sunset date of the interagency team
11 and to request a progress report on the work of the team prior to the
12 beginning of each fiscal biennium.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.155.150 and 2021 c 332 s 7033 and 2021 c 190 s 1
14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

15 (1) An interagency, multijurisdictional system improvement team
16 must identify, implement, and report on system improvements that
17 achieve the designated outcomes, including:

18 (a) Projects that maximize value, minimize overall costs and
19 disturbance to the community, and ensure long-term durability and
20 resilience;

21 (b) Projects that are designed to meet the unique needs of each
22 community, rather than the needs of particular funding programs;

23 (c) Project designs that maximize long-term value by fully
24 considering and responding to anticipated long-term environmental,
25 technological, economic and population changes;

26 (d) The flexibility to innovate, including utilizing natural
27 systems, addressing multiple regulatory drivers, and forming regional
28 partnerships;

29 (e) The ability to plan and collaborate across programs and
30 jurisdictions so that different investments are packaged to be
31 complementary, timely, and responsive to economic and community
32 opportunities;

33 (f) The needed capacity for communities, appropriate to their
34 unique financial, planning, and management capacities, so they can
35 design, finance, and build projects that best meet their long-term
36 needs and minimize costs;

37 (g) Optimal use and leveraging of federal and private
38 infrastructure dollars; and

1 (h) Mechanisms to ensure periodic, systemwide review and ongoing
2 achievement of the designated outcomes.

3 (2) The system improvement team must consist of representatives
4 of state infrastructure programs that provide funding for drinking
5 water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband programs, including but
6 not limited to representatives from the public works board,
7 department of ecology, department of health, and the department of
8 commerce. The system improvement team may invite representatives of
9 other infrastructure programs, such as transportation, energy, and
10 broadband, as needed in order to achieve efficiency, minimize costs,
11 and maximize value across infrastructure programs. The system
12 improvement team shall also consist of representatives of users of
13 those programs, representatives of infrastructure project builders,
14 and other parties the system improvement team determines would
15 contribute to achieving the desired outcomes, including but not
16 limited to representatives from a state association of cities, a
17 state association of counties, a state association of public utility
18 districts, a state association of water and sewer districts, a state
19 association of general contractors, and a state organization
20 representing building trades. The public works board, a
21 representative from the department of ecology, department of health,
22 and department of commerce shall facilitate the work of the system
23 improvement team.

24 (3) The system improvement team must focus on achieving the
25 designated outcomes within existing program structures and
26 authorities. The system improvement team shall use lean practices to
27 achieve the designated outcomes.

28 (4) The system improvement team shall provide briefings as
29 requested to the public works board on the current state of
30 infrastructure programs to build an understanding of the
31 infrastructure investment program landscape and the interplay of its
32 component parts.

33 (5) If the system improvement team encounters statutory or
34 regulatory barriers to system improvements, the system improvement
35 team must inform the public works board and consult on possible
36 solutions. When achieving the designated outcomes would be best
37 served through changes in program structures or authorities, the
38 system improvement team must report those findings to the public
39 works board.

1 (6) (~~By September 1, 2022~~) Beginning November 1, 2026, in
2 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the system improvement team must
3 submit a biennial report to the appropriate committees of the
4 legislature that includes the following:
5 (a) A list of all projects funded by members of the system
6 improvement team;
7 (b) A description of the coordination the system improvement team
8 has completed with other grant programs and funds leveraged; and
9 (c) A description of regional planning that has occurred.
10 (~~(7) This section expires June 30, 2025.~~)

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
13 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
14 effect June 30, 2025.

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