
SENATE BILL 6283

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Billig, Shewmake, Holy, King, Lias, Lovick, C. Wilson, J. Wilson, Valdez, Kauffman, Hawkins, Lovelett, Padden, Fortunato, Cleveland, Trudeau, Frame, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Saldaña, and Stanford

Read first time 01/19/24. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the expiration date for the Sandy
2 Williams connecting communities program; and amending RCW 47.04.380.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.04.380 and 2023 c 431 s 6 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that many communities across Washington
7 state have not equitably benefited from investments in the active
8 transportation network. The legislature also finds that legacy state
9 transportation facilities designed primarily for vehicle use caused
10 disconnections in safe routes for people who walk, bike, and roll to
11 work and to carry out other daily activities.

12 (2) To address these investment gaps, and to honor the legacy of
13 community advocacy of Sandy Williams, the Sandy Williams connecting
14 communities program is established within the department. The purpose
15 of the program is to improve active transportation connectivity in
16 communities by:

17 (a) Providing safe, continuous routes for pedestrians,
18 bicyclists, and other nonvehicle users carrying out their daily
19 activities;

1 (b) Mitigating for the health, safety, and access impacts of
2 transportation infrastructure that bisects communities and creates
3 obstacles in the local active transportation network;

4 (c) Investing in greenways providing protected routes for a wide
5 variety of nonvehicular users; and

6 (d) Facilitating the planning, development, and implementation of
7 projects and activities that will improve the connectivity and safety
8 of the active transportation network.

9 (3) The department must select projects to propose to the
10 legislature for funding. In selecting projects, the department must
11 consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

12 (a) Access to a transit facility, community facility, commercial
13 center, or community-identified assets;

14 (b) The use of minority and women-owned businesses and community-
15 based organizations in planning, community engagement, design, and
16 construction of the project;

17 (c) Whether the project will serve:

18 (i) Overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010 to mean
19 a geographic area where vulnerable populations face combined,
20 multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and includes, but is
21 not limited to, highly impacted communities as defined in RCW
22 19.405.020;

23 (ii) Vulnerable populations as defined in RCW 70A.02.010 to mean
24 population groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor
25 health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to adverse
26 socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing, and
27 transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious
28 food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other
29 factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase
30 vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and sensitivity
31 factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of
32 hospitalization. Vulnerable populations include, but are not limited
33 to: Racial or ethnic minorities, low-income populations, populations
34 disproportionately impacted by environmental harms, and populations
35 of workers experiencing environmental harms;

36 (iii) Household incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal
37 poverty level; and

38 (iv) People with disabilities;

39 (d) Environmental health disparities, such as those indicated by
40 the diesel pollution burden portion of the Washington environmental

1 health disparities map developed by the department of health, or
2 other similar indicators;

3 (e) Location on or adjacent to tribal lands or locations
4 providing essential services to tribal members;

5 (f) Crash experience involving pedestrians and bicyclists; and

6 (g) Identified need by the community, for example in the state
7 active transportation plan or a regional, county, or community plan.

8 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the Sandy Williams
9 connecting communities program comply with the requirements of
10 chapter 314, Laws of 2021.

11 (5) The department shall submit a report to the transportation
12 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022, and each December
13 1st thereafter identifying the selected connecting communities
14 projects for funding by the legislature. The report must also include
15 the status of previously funded projects.

16 (~~(6) This section expires July 1, 2027.~~)

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