
HOUSE BILL 2025

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Harris, Vick, Orcutt, Shea, Dahlquist, Taylor, Kochmar, Scott, Overstreet, Hargrove, Haler, and O'Ban

Read first time 04/05/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Columbia river crossing project; adding a
2 new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the design
6 alternative selected by the state department of transportation, the
7 federal highway administration, and the federal transit administration
8 for a new Interstate 5 bridge that connects Vancouver, Washington to
9 Portland, Oregon is not acceptable as currently designed.

10 (2) The legislature further finds that:

11 (a) The United States coast guard has not approved the design
12 alternative due to a lack of clearance between the Columbia river and
13 the bridge deck, which will adversely affect the free movement of
14 maritime freight and future economic development;

15 (b) The inclusion of light rail in the design alternative results
16 in a cost increase to the project of over nine hundred twenty-five
17 million dollars for taxpayers, while imposing a commute time penalty of
18 one hundred twenty-five percent for Vancouver transit riders;

1 (c) The citizens of Clark county voted in November 2012 not to fund
2 the costs of operating and maintaining light rail; and

3 (d) The current design alternative will not reduce congestion as it
4 only offers three full span vehicular lanes in each direction, which is
5 the same as the current Interstate 5 bridge.

6 (3) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that no funds be
7 spent to further the selected design alternative.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The department is prohibited from expending funds on the design
11 or construction of any project that replaces the bridges on Interstate
12 5 between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon as designed in the
13 December 7, 2011, record of decision.

14 (2)(a) The department must prepare a new design alternative that
15 includes the following:

16 (i) A clearance height between the bridge deck and the Columbia
17 river that accommodates all existing and future river users and
18 accommodates those river users' reasonable and foreseeable future
19 needs; and

20 (ii) A third bridge in addition to the Interstate 5 and Interstate
21 205 bridges to accommodate more lanes of traffic.

22 (b) The design alternative must not include light rail.

23 (3) Any new design must either expand general lane capacity or
24 create a measurable improvement of congestion and commute times.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

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