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HOUSE BILL 2025

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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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