

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1842

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning transit agency coordination.

Sponsors: House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Farrell, Hargrove, Fey, Harmsworth, Senn, Wylie, Gregerson, Robinson, Walkinshaw, Zeiger, Fitzgibbon, Moscoso, Tarleton and Clibborn).

House Committee on Transportation

Background:

Transit Reporting Requirements.

Each September, transit agencies in Washington are required to submit six-year transit development plans for that year and the ensuing five years, as well as system reports identifying public transportation services provided in the previous year and objectives for improvements. Similar reports are due to the Federal Transit Administration at the same time.

Based on information that is submitted in the system reports, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) must prepare an annual report that summarizes individual public transportation systems. This report is due December 1 of each year to the transportation committees of the Legislature and each state municipality.

Regional Mobility Grants.

The regional mobility grant program provides \$50 million per biennium to aid local governments in funding projects that reduce delays for people and goods and improve connectivity between counties and regional population centers. This includes projects such as intercounty connectivity service, park and ride lots, rush hour transit service, and capital projects that improve the connectivity and efficiency of the transportation system.

The WSDOT must to submit a prioritized list to the Legislature by December 1 of each year of all the projects requesting funding. When prioritizing projects, the WSDOT must insure that the projects are consistent with various state, regional, and local plans, and must take into consideration the following criteria:

- enhancing the efficiency of regional corridors in moving people among jurisdictions and modes of transportation;

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- energy efficiency issues;
- reducing delay for people and goods;
- freight and goods movement as related to economic development;
- regional significance;
- rural isolation;
- the leveraging of other funds; and
- safety and security issues.

The WSDOT must also take into consideration the objectives of the following programs and acts when prioritizing projects:

- the Growth Management Act;
- the High Capacity Transportation Act;
- the Commute Trip Reduction Act;
- transportation demand management programs;
- federal and state air quality requirements; and
- the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and related state accessibility requirements.

Summary:

The WSDOT is required to develop an annual report regarding transit agency coordination in counties with a population of 700,000 or more that border the Puget Sound, which currently includes King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. By December 1 of each year, the report must be made available to the transportation committees of the Legislature and each transit authority in those same counties.

By September 1 of each year, all transit agencies in a county with a population of 700,000 or more that borders the Puget Sound are required to report to the WSDOT on their coordination efforts in the following areas:

- integrating marketing efforts;
- aligning fare structures;
- integrating service planning;
- coordinating long-range planning, including capital projects planning and implementation;
- integrating other administrative functions and internal business processes as appropriate; and
- integrating certain customer-focused tools and initiatives.

The regional mobility grant criteria are modified by adding coordination and integration to the criteria upon which the grants are awarded to the agencies in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

A new transit coordination grant program is created within the WSDOT and expires in five years, on July 1, 2020. The grants from the program are only available to transit agencies located in counties with a population of 700,000 or more that border the Puget Sound. The grants must be proposed jointly by two or more transit agencies, are intended to encourage joint planning and coordination, and must include measurable outcomes.

Upon completion of the project, transit coordination grant recipients must provide a report to the WSDOT that includes the following:

- an overview of the project;
- how the grant funds were spent;
- the extent to which intended project outcomes were met; and
- identified best practices.

The WSDOT must provide an annual report to the transportation committees of the Legislature on the transit coordination grants that were awarded, and the report must include data to determine if completed transit coordination grant projects produced the anticipated outcomes included in the grant applications.

Votes on Final Passage:

Third Special Session

House	98	0
Senate	45	0

Effective: July 6, 2015