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HOUSE BILL 2461

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Riccelli, Entenman, Fitzgibbon, Lovick, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Cody, Shewmake, Ramos, Valdez, Mead, Kloba, Thai, Robinson, Santos, Macri, Pollet, Wylie, and Doglio

Read first time 01/14/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to including health in the state transportation  
2 system policy goals; amending RCW 47.04.280; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that  
6 the connection between transportation and health is indisputable;  
7 transportation systems can impact health in both positive and  
8 negative ways. Consideration of health implications in transportation  
9 policy has the potential to support health equity by preventing  
10 chronic diseases and improving traffic safety and air quality, all of  
11 which can drive savings in health care costs.

12 The rate of obesity in Washington remains a concern. Almost  
13 twenty-nine percent of adults and twelve percent of our tenth graders  
14 are obese, with significantly higher rates in populations with lower  
15 income and lower education. Access to regular physical activity has  
16 been declining in our social and physical environments. People who  
17 are active are more likely to maintain a healthy weight and less  
18 likely to develop chronic diseases. In addition, we know that  
19 exposure to unhealthy air quality is linked to premature mortality,  
20 cardiac symptoms, exacerbation of asthma symptoms, diminished lung  
21 function, and increased hospitalization.

1 Washington is committed to routinely consider the health  
2 implications of transportation planning and community design.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that this act  
4 serves to expand the existing goals, objectives, and responsibilities  
5 related to the operation of a statewide transportation system to  
6 include the health of people living in Washington.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.280 and 2016 c 35 s 3 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals  
10 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the  
11 state's transportation system. The policy goals established under  
12 this section are deemed consistent with the benchmark categories  
13 adopted by the state's blue ribbon commission on transportation on  
14 November 30, 2000. Public investments in transportation should  
15 support achievement of these policy goals:

16 (a) Economic vitality: To promote and develop transportation  
17 systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people  
18 and goods to ensure a prosperous economy;

19 (b) Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and  
20 utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services;

21 (c) Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and security of  
22 transportation customers and the transportation system;

23 (d) Mobility: To improve the predictable movement of goods and  
24 people throughout Washington state, including congestion relief and  
25 improved freight mobility;

26 (e) Environment: To enhance Washington's quality of life through  
27 transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance  
28 healthy communities, and protect the environment; (~~and~~)

29 (f) Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality,  
30 effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system; and

31 (g) Health: To improve the health of Washington's residents, by  
32 considering health implications and encouraging active transportation  
33 when designing, building, and maintaining Washington's transportation  
34 system.

35 (2) The powers, duties, and functions of state transportation  
36 agencies must be performed in a manner consistent with the policy  
37 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

1 (3) These policy goals are intended to be the basis for  
2 establishing detailed and measurable objectives and related  
3 performance measures.

4 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the office of  
5 financial management, in consultation with the transportation  
6 commission, establish objectives and performance measures for the  
7 department and other state agencies with transportation-related  
8 responsibilities to ensure transportation system performance at  
9 local, regional, and state government levels progresses toward the  
10 attainment of the policy goals set forth in subsection (1) of this  
11 section. The office of financial management shall submit objectives  
12 and performance measures to the legislature for its review and shall  
13 provide copies of the same to the commission during each regular  
14 session of the legislature during an even-numbered year thereafter.

15 (5) A local or regional agency engaging in transportation  
16 planning may voluntarily establish objectives and performance  
17 measures to demonstrate progress toward the attainment of the policy  
18 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section or any other  
19 transportation policy goals established by the local or regional  
20 agency. A local or regional agency engaging in transportation  
21 planning is encouraged to provide local and regional objectives and  
22 performance measures to be included with the objectives and  
23 performance measures submitted to the legislature pursuant to  
24 subsection (4) of this section.

25 (6) This section does not create a private right of action.

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