

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5853

C 59 L 22

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Establishing a limited project regarding leasing certain department of transportation property in order to remedy past impacts to historically marginalized populations.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Liias, Kuderer, Lovick, Saldaña and Wilson, C.).

Senate Committee on Transportation

House Committee on Transportation

Background: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) may rent or lease any lands, improvements, or air space above or below any lands held for highway purposes, but are not presently needed. Moneys paid as rent for the WSDOT property must be deposited in the advance right-of-way revolving fund. However, moneys that are subject to federal aid reimbursement and moneys received from rental of capital facilities properties must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund.

Summary: To remedy past impacts to historically marginalized populations within impacted local communities resulting from the construction of Interstate 90 and the US 395 North Spokane Corridor project, WSDOT is strongly encouraged to establish a limited project for community purposes. The Legislature intends that WSDOT establish the project to allow the affected property to be used for community purposes made unavailable due to the placement of the highway.

Under the project, WSDOT may lease property that was purchased as part of the Interstate 90 corridor project and the US 395 North Spokane Corridor to the Department of Commerce or to a community-based nonprofit corporation to be used for the following community purposes made unavailable due to the placement of the highway:

- housing and ancillary improvements;
- parks;
- community revitalization projects;

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- enhanced public spaces, such as trails and public plazas; and
- projects that provide enhanced economic development in the impacted community.

A lease for housing and parks may be for less than economic rent—fair market rent. However, the lease agreement must then require the lessee to maintain the premises as part of the consideration to WSDOT.

The parties involved must provide updates, when practicable, to the cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley when any significant actions are taken related to the agreements and activities authorized under the main provisions of the bill.

Moneys paid under the limited project must be deposited into the motor vehicle fund to be used solely within the Interstate 90 corridor project and the US 395 North Spokane Corridor.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0
House	70	26

Effective: June 9, 2022