
SENATE BILL 5465

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Padden and Wilson, J.

Read first time 02/23/21. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to elevating road maintenance and preservation in
2 transportation planning; 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 that the road system
6 in Washington state includes more than one hundred sixty-seven
7 thousand lane miles and more than three thousand three hundred state-
8 owned bridges that require maintenance, preservation, and replacement
9 for the transportation network to continue to function. It is a
10 priority for the people and the public good for the transportation
11 system to be in a state of good repair. The department of
12 transportation has recently made choices to forego planned
13 maintenance and preservation on parts of the system. In order to
14 change this course of neglect, the legislature is empowering all
15 transportation providers in the state to ensure that the system in
16 place today is maintained in a safe and functional manner by
17 declaring preservation and safety to be the top priorities of all the
18 state transportation policy goals.

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

1 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals
2 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the
3 state's transportation system. (~~The policy goals established under~~
4 ~~this section are deemed consistent with the benchmark categories~~
5 ~~adopted by the state's blue ribbon commission on transportation on~~
6 ~~November 30, 2000.~~) Public investments in transportation should
7 support achievement of these policy goals:

8 (a) (~~Economic vitality: To promote and develop transportation~~
9 ~~systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people~~
10 ~~and goods to ensure a prosperous economy;~~

11 ~~(b)~~) Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life
12 and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and
13 services;

14 (~~(c)~~) (b) Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and
15 security of transportation customers and the transportation system;

16 (c) Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality,
17 effectiveness, resilience, and efficiency of the transportation
18 system;

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

22 (e) Economic vitality: To promote and develop transportation
23 systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people
24 and goods to ensure a prosperous economy; and

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

28 ~~(f) Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality,~~
29 ~~effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system)).~~

30 (2) The powers, duties, and functions of state transportation
31 agencies must be performed in a manner consistent with the policy
32 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section with preservation
33 and safety being priorities.

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

37 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the office of
38 financial management, in consultation with the transportation
39 commission, establish objectives and performance measures for the
40 department and other state agencies with transportation-related

1 responsibilities to ensure transportation system performance at
2 local, regional, and state government levels progresses toward the
3 attainment of the policy goals set forth in subsection (1) of this
4 section. The office of financial management shall submit objectives
5 and performance measures to the legislature for its review and shall
6 provide copies of the same to the commission during each regular
7 session of the legislature during an even-numbered year thereafter.

8 (5) A local or regional agency engaging in transportation
9 planning may voluntarily establish objectives and performance
10 measures to demonstrate progress toward the attainment of the policy
11 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section or any other
12 transportation policy goals established by the local or regional
13 agency. A local or regional agency engaging in transportation
14 planning is encouraged to provide local and regional objectives and
15 performance measures to be included with the objectives and
16 performance measures submitted to the legislature pursuant to
17 subsection (4) of this section.

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

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