
HOUSE BILL 1823

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Low

Read first time 02/04/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the transportation improvement board; amending
2 RCW 47.26.084, 47.26.086, 47.26.121, 47.26.140, 47.26.420, and
3 47.26.500; repealing RCW 47.26.170 and 47.26.300; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.26.084 and 2011 c 120 s 6 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The transportation improvement account is hereby created in
9 the motor vehicle fund. The intent of the program is to:

10 (a) Improve mobility of people and goods in Washington state by
11 supporting economic development and environmentally responsive
12 solutions to our statewide transportation system needs;

13 (b) Improve the arterial street system of the state by improving
14 mobility and safety while supporting an environment essential to the
15 quality of life of the citizens of the state; and

16 (c) Maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior
17 investments in transportation systems and services.

18 (2) ~~((The small city program, as provided for in RCW 47.26.115,~~
19 ~~is implemented within the transportation improvement account.~~

20 ~~(3))~~ Within one year after board approval of an application for
21 funding, a county, city, or transportation benefit district shall

1 provide written certification to the board of the pledged local
2 and/or private funding. Funds allocated to an applicant that does not
3 certify its funding within one year after approval may be reallocated
4 by the board.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.26.086 and 2011 c 120 s 7 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Transportation improvement account projects selected for funding
8 programs after fiscal year 1995 are governed by the requirements of
9 this section.

10 The board shall allocate funds from the account by June 30th of
11 each year for the ensuing fiscal year to urban counties, cities
12 (~~((with a population of five thousand and over))~~), and to
13 transportation benefit districts. Projects may include, but are not
14 limited to, multiagency projects and arterial improvement projects in
15 fast-growing areas. The board shall endeavor to provide geographical
16 diversity in selecting improvement projects to be funded from the
17 account.

18 To be eligible to receive these funds, a project must be
19 consistent with the Growth Management Act, the Clean Air Act
20 including conformity, and the Commute Trip Reduction Law and
21 consideration must have been given to the project's relationship,
22 both actual and potential, with the statewide rail passenger program
23 and rapid mass transit. Projects must be consistent with any adopted
24 high capacity transportation plan, must consider existing or
25 reasonably foreseeable congestion levels attributable to economic
26 development or growth and all modes of transportation and safety, and
27 must be partially funded by local government or private
28 contributions, or a combination of such contributions. Priority
29 consideration shall be given to those projects with the greatest
30 percentage of local or private contribution, or both.

31 Within one year after board approval of an application for
32 funding, the lead agency shall provide written certification to the
33 board of the pledged local and private funding for the phase of the
34 project approved. Funds allocated to an applicant that does not
35 certify its funding within one year after approval may be reallocated
36 by the board.

37 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.26.121 and 1996 c 49 s 1 are each amended to read
38 as follows:

1 (1) There is hereby created a transportation improvement board of
2 (~~twenty-one~~) 21 members, six of whom shall be county members and
3 six of whom shall be city members. The remaining members shall be:
4 (a) One representative appointed by the governor who shall be a state
5 employee with responsibility for transportation policy, planning, or
6 funding; (b) two representatives from the department of
7 transportation; (c) two representatives of public transit systems;
8 (d) a private sector representative; (e) a member representing the
9 ports; (f) a member representing (~~nonmotorized~~) active
10 transportation; and (g) a member representing special needs
11 transportation.

12 (2) Of the county members of the board, one shall be a county
13 engineer or public works director; one shall be the executive
14 director of the county road administration board; one shall be a
15 county planning director or planning manager; one shall be a county
16 executive, councilmember, or commissioner from a county with a
17 population of (~~one hundred twenty-five thousand~~) 125,000 or more;
18 one shall be a county executive, councilmember, or commissioner of a
19 county who serves on the board of a public transit system; and one
20 shall be a county executive, councilmember, or commissioner from a
21 county with a population of less than (~~one hundred twenty-five~~
22 ~~thousand~~) 125,000. All county members of the board, except the
23 executive director of the county road administration board, shall be
24 appointed. Not more than one county member of the board shall be from
25 any one county. No more than two of the three county elected
26 officials may represent counties located in either the eastern or
27 western part of the state as divided north and south by the summit of
28 the Cascade mountains.

29 (3) Of the city members of the board one shall be a chief city
30 engineer, public works director, or other city employee with
31 responsibility for public works activities, of a city with a
32 population of (~~twenty thousand~~) 20,000 or more; one shall be a
33 chief city engineer, public works director, or other city employee
34 with responsibility for public works activities, of a city of less
35 than (~~twenty thousand~~) 20,000 population; one shall be a city
36 planning director or planning manager; one shall be a mayor,
37 commissioner, or city councilmember of a city with a population of
38 (~~twenty thousand~~) 20,000 or more; one shall be a mayor,
39 commissioner, or city councilmember of a city who serves on the board
40 of a public transit system; and one shall be a mayor, commissioner,

1 or councilmember of a city of less than (~~twenty thousand~~) 20,000
2 population. All of the city members shall be appointed. Not more than
3 one city member of the board shall be from any one city. No more than
4 two of the three city-elected officials may represent cities located
5 in either the eastern or western part of the state as divided north
6 and south by the summit of the Cascade mountains.

7 (4) Of the transit members, at least one shall be a general
8 manager, executive director, or transit director of a public transit
9 system in an urban area with a population over (~~two hundred~~
10 ~~thousand~~) 200,000 and at least one representative from a rural or
11 small urban transit system in an area with a population less than
12 (~~two hundred thousand~~) 200,000.

13 (5) The private sector member shall be a citizen with business,
14 management, and transportation related experience and shall be active
15 in a business community-based transportation organization.

16 (6) The port member shall be a commissioner or senior staff
17 person of a public port.

18 (7) The (~~nonmotorized~~) active transportation member shall be a
19 citizen with a demonstrated interest and involvement with (~~a~~
20 ~~nonmotorized~~) an active transportation group.

21 (8) The specialized transportation member shall be a citizen with
22 a demonstrated interest and involvement with a statewide specialized
23 needs transportation group.

24 (9) Appointments of county, city, Washington department of
25 transportation, transit, port, (~~nonmotorized~~) active
26 transportation, special needs transportation, and private sector
27 representatives shall be made by the secretary of the department of
28 transportation. Appointees shall be chosen from a list of two persons
29 for each position nominated by the Washington state association of
30 counties for county members, the association of Washington cities for
31 city members, the Washington state transit association for the
32 transit members, and the Washington public ports association for the
33 port member. The private sector, (~~nonmotorized~~) active
34 transportation, and special needs members shall be sought through
35 classified advertisements in selected newspapers collectively serving
36 all urban areas of the state, and other appropriate means. Persons
37 applying for the private sector, (~~nonmotorized~~) active
38 transportation, or special needs transportation member position must
39 provide a letter of interest and a resume to the secretary of the
40 department of transportation. In the case of a vacancy, the

1 appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term in
2 which the vacancy has occurred. A vacancy shall be deemed to have
3 occurred on the board when any member elected to public office
4 completes that term of office or is removed therefrom for any reason
5 or when any member employed by a political subdivision terminates
6 such employment for whatsoever reason or when a private sector,
7 (~~nonmotorized~~) active transportation, or special needs
8 transportation member resigns or is unable or unwilling to serve.

9 (10) Appointments shall be for terms of four years. Terms of all
10 appointed members shall expire on June 30th of even-numbered years.
11 The initial term of appointed members may be for less than four
12 years. No appointed member may serve more than two consecutive four-
13 year terms.

14 (11) The board shall elect a chair from among its members for a
15 two-year term.

16 (12) Expenses of the board shall be paid in accordance with RCW
17 47.26.140.

18 (13) For purposes of this section (~~(, "public")~~):

19 (a) "Active transportation" means forms of pedestrian mobility
20 including walking or running, the use of a mobility assistive device
21 such as a wheelchair, bicycling, and cycling irrespective of the
22 number of wheels, and the use of small personal devices such as foot
23 scooters or skateboards. "Active transportation" includes both
24 traditional and electric-assisted bicycles and other devices.

25 (b) "Public transit system" means a city-owned transit system,
26 county transportation authority, metropolitan municipal corporation,
27 public transportation benefit area, or regional transit authority.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.26.140 and 2011 c 120 s 9 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 The transportation improvement board shall appoint an executive
31 director, who shall serve at its pleasure and whose salary shall be
32 set by the board, and may employ additional staff as it deems
33 appropriate. All costs associated with staff, together with travel
34 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, shall be
35 paid from the (~~(public transportation systems account and the)~~)
36 transportation improvement account in the motor vehicle fund as
37 determined by the biennial appropriation.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 47.26.420 and 2007 c 519 s 6 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 In order to provide funds necessary to meet the urgent
4 construction needs on county and city arterials within urban areas,
5 there are hereby authorized for issuance general obligation bonds of
6 the state of Washington, the first authorization of which shall be in
7 the sum of (~~two hundred fifty million dollars~~) \$250,000,000, and
8 the second authorization of which, to be known as series II bonds,
9 shall be in the sum of (~~sixty million dollars~~) \$60,000,000, and the
10 third authorization of which, to be known as series III bonds, shall
11 be in the sum of (~~one hundred million dollars~~) \$100,000,000, which
12 shall be issued and sold in such amounts and at such times as
13 determined to be necessary by the transportation improvement board.
14 The amount of such bonds issued and sold under the provisions of RCW
15 47.26.420 through 47.26.427 in any biennium shall not exceed the
16 amount of a specific appropriation therefor, from the proceeds of
17 such bonds, for the construction of county and city arterials in
18 urban areas. The issuance, sale, and retirement of said bonds shall
19 be under the supervision and control of the state finance committee
20 which, upon request being made by the transportation improvement
21 board, shall provide for the issuance, sale, and retirement of coupon
22 or registered bonds to be dated, issued, and sold from time to time
23 in such amounts as shall be requested by the transportation
24 improvement board. If any bonds authorized in this chapter have not
25 been issued by June 30, 2025, the authority of the state finance
26 committee to issue such remaining unissued bonds expires June 30,
27 2025.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.26.500 and 2000 2nd sp.s. c 6 s 1 are each
29 amended to read as follows:

30 In order to provide funds necessary to meet the urgent
31 construction needs on state, county, and city transportation
32 projects, there are hereby authorized for issuance general obligation
33 bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of (~~one hundred million~~
34 ~~dollars~~) \$100,000,000, which shall be issued and sold in such
35 amounts and at such times as determined to be necessary by the state
36 transportation improvement board. The amount of such bonds issued and
37 sold under the provisions of RCW 47.26.500 through 47.26.507 in any
38 biennium shall not exceed the amount of a specific appropriation
39 therefor, from the proceeds of such bonds, for the construction of

1 state, county, and city transportation projects. The issuance, sale,
2 and retirement of the bonds shall be under the supervision and
3 control of the state finance committee which, upon request being made
4 by the board, shall provide for the issuance, sale, and retirement of
5 coupon or registered bonds to be dated, issued, and sold from time to
6 time in such amounts as shall be requested by the board. If any bonds
7 authorized in this chapter have not been issued by June 30, 2025, the
8 authority of the state finance committee to issue such remaining
9 unissued bonds expires June 30, 2025.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The following acts or parts of acts are
11 each repealed:

12 (1) RCW 47.26.170 (Long-range arterial construction planning—
13 Arterial inventory data) and 2005 c 319 s 131, 1994 c 179 s 16, 1988
14 c 167 s 19, 1984 c 7 s 156, 1971 ex.s. c 291 s 2, & 1967 ex.s. c 83 s
15 23; and

16 (2) RCW 47.26.300 (Bicycle routes—Legislative declaration) and
17 1974 ex.s. c 141 s 1.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
20 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
21 effect immediately.

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