
SENATE BILL 5595

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Alvarado, Lias, Frame, Nobles, Pedersen, Saldaña, and Shewmake

Read first time 01/30/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing shared streets; amending RCW
2 46.61.250, 46.61.415, 46.61.110, 46.61.240, and 46.61.770; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A local authority may designate any nonarterial highway to be
8 a shared street under this section, if the local authority has
9 developed procedures for establishing shared streets.

10 (2) Vehicular traffic traveling along a shared street shall yield
11 the right-of-way to any pedestrian, bicyclist, or operator of a
12 micromobility device on the shared street.

13 (3) A bicyclist or operator of a micromobility device shall yield
14 the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a shared street.

15 (4) For purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Micromobility device" means personal or shared nonmotorized
17 scooters, "motorized foot scooters" as defined in RCW 46.04.336, and
18 "electric personal assistive mobility devices" (EPAMD) as defined in
19 RCW 46.04.1695; and

1 (b) "Shared street" means a city street designated by placement
2 of official traffic control devices where pedestrians, bicyclists,
3 and vehicular traffic share a portion or all of the same street.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.250 and 2022 c 235 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Where sidewalks are provided and are accessible, it is
7 unlawful for any pedestrian to walk or otherwise move along and upon
8 an adjacent roadway. Where sidewalks are provided but wheelchair
9 access is not available, persons with disabilities who require such
10 access may walk or otherwise move along and upon an adjacent roadway
11 until they reach an access point in the sidewalk.

12 (2) Where sidewalks are not provided or are inaccessible, a
13 pedestrian walking or otherwise moving along and upon a highway, and
14 any personal delivery device moving along and upon a highway, shall:

15 (a) When shoulders are provided and are accessible, walk or move
16 on the shoulder of the roadway as far as is practicable from the edge
17 of the roadway, facing traffic when a shoulder is available in this
18 direction; or

19 (b) When shoulders are not provided or are inaccessible, walk or
20 move as near as is practicable to the outside edge of the roadway
21 facing traffic, and when practicable, move clear of the roadway upon
22 meeting an oncoming vehicle.

23 (3) A pedestrian traveling to the nearest emergency reporting
24 device on a one-way roadway of a controlled access highway is not
25 required to travel facing traffic as otherwise required by subsection
26 (2) of this section.

27 (4) When walking or otherwise moving along and upon an adjacent
28 roadway, a pedestrian shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with
29 any vehicle upon the roadway.

30 (5) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply when the
31 roadway is duly closed to vehicular traffic by placement of official
32 traffic control devices for the sole purposes of pedestrian and
33 bicyclist use of the roadway.

34 (6) Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of this section do not apply on
35 a shared street as defined in section 1 of this act.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.415 and 2022 c 235 s 1 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) Whenever local authorities in their respective jurisdictions
2 determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation
3 that the maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400 or 46.61.440 is
4 greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions
5 found to exist upon a highway or part of a highway, the local
6 authority may determine and declare a reasonable and safe maximum
7 limit thereon which

8 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

9 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than 60 miles per hour;

10 or

11 (c) Decreases the limit but not to less than 20 miles per hour.

12 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall
13 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper
14 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable
15 and safe maximum limit thereon, which may be greater or less than the
16 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed
17 60 miles per hour.

18 (3)(a) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may
19 establish a maximum speed limit of 20 miles per hour on a nonarterial
20 highway or part of a nonarterial highway or a maximum speed limit of
21 10 miles per hour on a shared street as defined in section 1 of this
22 act.

23 (b) A speed limit established under this subsection by a local
24 authority does not need to be determined on the basis of an
25 engineering and traffic investigation if the local authority has
26 developed procedures regarding establishing a maximum speed limit
27 under this subsection. Any speed limit established under this
28 subsection may be canceled within one year of its establishment, and
29 the previous speed limit reestablished, without an engineering and
30 traffic investigation. This subsection does not otherwise affect the
31 requirement that local authorities conduct an engineering and traffic
32 investigation to determine whether to increase speed limits.

33 (c) When establishing speed limits under this subsection, local
34 authorities shall consult the manual on uniform traffic control
35 devices as adopted by the Washington state department of
36 transportation.

37 (4) The secretary of transportation is authorized to establish
38 speed limits on county roads and city and town streets as shall be
39 necessary to conform with any federal requirements, which are a

1 prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds to the
2 state.

3 (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore authorized
4 shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are
5 erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at
6 all times or at such times as are indicated upon such signs; and
7 differing limits may be established for different times of day,
8 different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other
9 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted
10 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

11 (6) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within
12 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be
13 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of
14 transportation.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.61.110 and 2023 c 471 s 4 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of
18 vehicles proceeding in the same direction:

19 (1)(a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking other traffic
20 proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of it at a
21 safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the
22 roadway until safely clear of the overtaken traffic.

23 (b)(i) When the vehicle being overtaken is a motorcycle, motor-
24 driven cycle, or moped, a driver of a motor vehicle found to be in
25 violation of (a) of this subsection must be assessed an additional
26 fine equal to the base penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110(3). This
27 fine may not be waived, reduced, or suspended, unless the court finds
28 the offender to be indigent, and is not subject to the additional
29 fees and assessments that the base penalty for this violation is
30 subject to under RCW 2.68.040, 3.62.090, and 46.63.110.

31 (ii) The additional fine imposed under (b)(i) of this subsection
32 must be deposited into the vulnerable roadway user education account
33 created in RCW 46.61.145.

34 (2)(a) The driver of a vehicle approaching an individual who is
35 traveling as a pedestrian or on a bicycle, riding an animal, or using
36 a farm tractor or implement of husbandry without an enclosed shell,
37 and who is traveling in the right lane of a roadway or on the right-
38 hand shoulder or bicycle lane of the roadway, shall:

1 (i) On a roadway with two lanes or more for traffic moving in the
2 direction of travel, before passing and until safely clear of the
3 individual, move completely into a lane to the left of the right lane
4 when it is safe to do so;

5 (ii) On a roadway with only one lane for traffic moving in the
6 direction of travel:

7 (A) When there is sufficient room to the left of the individual
8 in the lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel, before
9 passing and until safely clear of the individual:

10 (I) Reduce speed to a safe speed for passing relative to the
11 speed of the individual; and

12 (II) Pass at a safe distance, where practicable of at least three
13 feet, to clearly avoid coming into contact with the individual or the
14 individual's vehicle or animal; or

15 (B) When there is insufficient room to the left of the individual
16 in the lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel to comply
17 with (a)(ii)(A) of this subsection, before passing and until safely
18 clear of the individual, move completely into the lane for traffic
19 moving in the opposite direction when it is safe to do so and in
20 compliance with RCW 46.61.120 and 46.61.125.

21 (b) A driver of a motor vehicle found to be in violation of this
22 subsection (2) must be assessed an additional fine equal to the base
23 penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110(3). This fine may not be waived,
24 reduced, or suspended, unless the court finds the offender to be
25 indigent, and is not subject to the additional fees and assessments
26 that the base penalty for this violation is subject to under RCW
27 2.68.040, 3.62.090, and 46.63.110.

28 (c) The additional fine imposed under (b) of this subsection must
29 be deposited into the vulnerable roadway user education account
30 created in RCW 46.61.145.

31 (d) For the purposes of this section, "vulnerable user of a
32 public way" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 46.61.5259.

33 (e) This subsection (2) does not apply on a shared street as
34 defined in section 1 of this act.

35 (3) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted,
36 overtaken traffic shall give way to the right in favor of an
37 overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase speed
38 until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.61.240 and 2019 c 214 s 13 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Every pedestrian or personal delivery device crossing a
4 roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within
5 an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way
6 to all vehicles upon the roadway.

7 (2) Where curb ramps exist at or adjacent to intersections or at
8 marked crosswalks in other locations, persons with disabilities or
9 personal delivery devices may enter the roadway from the curb ramps
10 and cross the roadway within or as closely as practicable to the
11 crosswalk. All other pedestrian rights and duties as defined
12 elsewhere in this chapter remain applicable.

13 (3) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a
14 pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided
15 shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

16 (4) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control
17 signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place
18 except in a marked crosswalk.

19 (5) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a
20 roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official
21 traffic-control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally,
22 pedestrians and personal delivery devices shall cross only in
23 accordance with the official traffic-control devices pertaining to
24 such crossing movements.

25 (6) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a
26 roadway at an unmarked crosswalk where an official sign prohibits
27 such crossing.

28 (7) This section does not apply on a shared street as defined in
29 section 1 of this act.

30 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.61.770 and 2019 c 403 s 10 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a rate of
33 speed less than the normal flow of traffic at the particular time and
34 place shall ride as near to the right side of the right through lane
35 as is safe except:

36 (a) While preparing to make or while making turning movements at
37 an intersection or into a private road or driveway;

38 (b) When approaching an intersection where right turns are
39 permitted and there is a dedicated right turn lane, in which case a

1 person may operate a bicycle in this lane even if the operator does
2 not intend to turn right;

3 (c) While overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle
4 proceeding in the same direction; and

5 (d) When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions
6 including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or
7 moving vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, animals, and surface
8 hazards.

9 (2) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway or highway other
10 than a limited access highway, which roadway or highway carries
11 traffic in one direction only and has two or more marked traffic
12 lanes, may ride as near to the left side of the left through lane as
13 is safe.

14 (3) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway may use the
15 shoulder of the roadway or any specially designated bicycle lane.

16 (4) When the operator of a bicycle is using the travel lane of a
17 roadway with only one lane for traffic moving in the direction of
18 travel and it is wide enough for a bicyclist and a vehicle to travel
19 safely side-by-side within it, the bicycle operator shall operate far
20 enough to the right to facilitate the movement of an overtaking
21 vehicle unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so or unless the
22 bicyclist is preparing to make a turning movement or while making a
23 turning movement.

24 (5) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more
25 than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for
26 the exclusive use of bicycles.

27 (6) This section does not apply on a shared street as defined in
28 section 1 of this act.

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