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SENATE BILL 6335

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators King and Llias

1 AN ACT Relating to revising the responsibilities of the state  
2 transportation commission; amending RCW 47.01.071, 47.04.280,  
3 47.06.020, 47.80.060, 47.26.170, 47.01.250, 47.12.330, and 47.06.040;  
4 and repealing RCW 47.01.075 and 47.26.440.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.01.071 and 2022 c 186 s 702 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The transportation commission shall have the following functions,  
9 powers, and duties:

10 ~~(1) ((To propose policies to be adopted by the governor and the~~  
11 ~~legislature designed to assure the development and maintenance of a~~  
12 ~~comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation system which will~~  
13 ~~meet the needs of the people of this state for safe and efficient~~  
14 ~~transportation services. Wherever appropriate, the policies shall~~  
15 ~~provide for the use of integrated, intermodal transportation systems.~~  
16 ~~The policies must be aligned with the goals established in RCW~~  
17 ~~47.04.280. To this end the commission shall:~~

18 ~~(a) Develop transportation policies which are based on the~~  
19 ~~policies, goals, and objectives expressed and inherent in existing~~  
20 ~~state laws;~~

1 ~~(b) Inventory the adopted policies, goals, and objectives of the~~  
2 ~~local and area-wide governmental bodies of the state and define the~~  
3 ~~role of the state, regional, and local governments in determining~~  
4 ~~transportation policies, in transportation planning, and in~~  
5 ~~implementing the state transportation plan;~~

6 ~~(c) Establish a procedure for review and revision of the state~~  
7 ~~transportation policy and for submission of proposed changes to the~~  
8 ~~governor and the legislature; and~~

9 ~~(d) Integrate the statewide transportation plan with the needs of~~  
10 ~~the elderly and persons with disabilities, and coordinate federal and~~  
11 ~~state programs directed at assisting local governments to answer such~~  
12 ~~needs;~~

13 ~~(2) To provide for the effective coordination of state~~  
14 ~~transportation planning with national transportation policy, state~~  
15 ~~and local land use policies, and local and regional transportation~~  
16 ~~plans and programs;~~

17 ~~(3) In conjunction with the provisions under RCW 47.01.075, to))~~  
18 ~~To provide for public involvement ((in transportation)) designed to~~  
19 ~~elicit the public's views both with respect to ((adequate~~  
20 ~~transportation services and appropriate means of minimizing adverse~~  
21 ~~social, economic, environmental, and energy impact of transportation~~  
22 ~~programs)) transportation topics that fall within the commission's~~  
23 ~~responsibilities as well as any additional topics directed by the~~  
24 ~~legislature, and to provide a summary report of the public's views to~~  
25 ~~the transportation committees of the legislature by December 1st of~~  
26 ~~each year;~~

27 ~~((4) By December 2010, to prepare a comprehensive and balanced~~  
28 ~~statewide transportation plan consistent with the state's growth~~  
29 ~~management goals and based on the transportation policy goals~~  
30 ~~provided under RCW 47.04.280 and applicable state and federal laws.~~  
31 ~~The plan must reflect the priorities of government developed by the~~  
32 ~~office of financial management and address regional needs, including~~  
33 ~~multimodal transportation planning. The plan must, at a minimum: (a)~~  
34 ~~Establish a vision for the development of the statewide~~  
35 ~~transportation system; (b) identify significant statewide~~  
36 ~~transportation policy issues; and (c) recommend statewide~~  
37 ~~transportation policies and strategies to the legislature to fulfill~~  
38 ~~the requirements of subsection (1) of this section. The plan must be~~  
39 ~~the product of an ongoing process that involves representatives of~~  
40 ~~significant transportation interests and the general public from~~

1 across the state. Every four years, except during the 2021-2023  
2 fiscal biennium, the plan shall be reviewed and revised, and  
3 submitted to the governor and the house of representatives and senate  
4 standing committees on transportation.

5 The plan shall take into account federal law and regulations  
6 relating to the planning, construction, and operation of  
7 transportation facilities;

8 ~~((5))~~ (2) To propose to the governor and the legislature prior to  
9 the convening of each regular session held in an odd-numbered year a  
10 recommended budget for the operations of the commission as required  
11 by RCW 47.01.061;

12 ~~((6))~~ (3) To adopt such rules as may be necessary to carry out  
13 reasonably and properly those functions expressly vested in the  
14 commission by statute;

15 ~~((7))~~ (4) To contract with the office of financial management  
16 or other appropriate state agencies for administrative support,  
17 accounting services, computer services, and other support services  
18 necessary to carry out its other statutory duties;

19 ~~((8))~~ (5) To conduct transportation-related studies and policy  
20 analysis to the extent directed by the legislature or governor in the  
21 biennial transportation budget act, or as otherwise provided in law,  
22 and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
23 specific purpose; and

24 ~~((9))~~ (6) To exercise such other specific powers and duties as  
25 may be vested in the transportation commission by this or any other  
26 provision of law.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.280 and 2021 c 153 s 1 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals  
30 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the  
31 state's transportation system. Public investments in transportation  
32 should support achievement of these policy goals:

33 (a) Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and  
34 utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services,  
35 including the state ferry system;

36 (b) Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and security of  
37 transportation customers and the transportation system;

1 (c) Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality,  
2 effectiveness, resilience, and efficiency of the transportation  
3 system;

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

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

10 (f) Environment: To enhance Washington's quality of life through  
11 transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance  
12 healthy communities, and protect the environment.

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

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

20 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the office of  
21 financial management(~~(, in consultation with the transportation~~  
22 ~~commission,)) establish objectives and performance measures for the  
23 department and other state agencies with transportation-related  
24 responsibilities to ensure transportation system performance at  
25 local, regional, and state government levels progresses toward the  
26 attainment of the policy goals set forth in subsection (1) of this  
27 section. The office of financial management shall submit objectives  
28 and performance measures to the legislature for its review and shall  
29 provide copies of the same to the commission during each regular  
30 session of the legislature during an even-numbered year thereafter.~~

31 (5) A local or regional agency engaging in transportation  
32 planning may voluntarily establish objectives and performance  
33 measures to demonstrate progress toward the attainment of the policy  
34 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section or any other  
35 transportation policy goals established by the local or regional  
36 agency. A local or regional agency engaging in transportation  
37 planning is encouraged to provide local and regional objectives and  
38 performance measures to be included with the objectives and  
39 performance measures submitted to the legislature pursuant to  
40 subsection (4) of this section.

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

2 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.06.020 and 2007 c 516 s 9 are each amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 The specific role of the department in transportation planning  
5 must be, consistent with the policy goals described under RCW  
6 47.04.280: (1) Ongoing coordination and development of statewide  
7 transportation policies that guide all Washington transportation  
8 providers; (2) ongoing development of a statewide multimodal  
9 transportation plan that includes both state-owned and state-interest  
10 facilities and services; (3) coordinating the state high capacity  
11 transportation planning and regional transportation planning  
12 programs; and (4) conducting special transportation planning studies  
13 that impact state transportation facilities or relate to  
14 transportation facilities and services of statewide significance(~~(=~~  
15 ~~and (5) assisting the transportation commission in the development of~~  
16 ~~the statewide transportation plan required under RCW 47.01.071(4))~~).  
17 Specific requirements for each of these state transportation planning  
18 components are described in this chapter.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.80.060 and 2007 c 511 s 1 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 In order to qualify for state planning funds available to  
22 regional transportation planning organizations, the regional  
23 transportation planning organizations containing any county with a  
24 population in excess of (~~one million~~) 1,000,000 shall provide  
25 voting membership on its executive board to the state  
26 (~~(transportation commission, the state)~~) department of  
27 transportation, the four largest public port districts within the  
28 region as determined by gross operating revenues, any incorporated  
29 principal city of a metropolitan statistical area within the region,  
30 as designated by the United States census bureau, and any  
31 incorporated city within the region with a population in excess of  
32 (~~eighty thousand~~) 80,000. It shall further assure that at least  
33 (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of the county and city local elected officials  
34 who serve on the executive board also serve on transit agency boards  
35 or on a regional transit authority.

36 **Sec. 5.** RCW 47.26.170 and 2005 c 319 s 131 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 Each county having within its boundaries an urban area and cities  
2 and towns shall prepare and submit to the transportation improvement  
3 board arterial inventory data required to determine the long-range  
4 arterial construction needs. The counties, cities, and towns shall  
5 revise the arterial inventory data every four years to show the  
6 current arterial construction needs through the advanced planning  
7 period, and as revised shall submit them to the transportation  
8 improvement board during the first week of January every four years  
9 beginning in 1996. The inventory data shall be prepared pursuant to  
10 guidelines established by the transportation improvement board. (~~As~~  
11 ~~information is updated, it shall be made available to the~~  
12 ~~commission.))~~

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.01.250 and 1998 c 245 s 92 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (~~The chief of the Washington state patrol, the director of the~~  
16 ~~traffic safety commission, the executive director of the county road~~  
17 ~~administration board, and the director of licensing are designated as~~  
18 ~~official consultants to the transportation commission so that the~~  
19 ~~goals and activities of their respective agencies which relate to~~  
20 ~~transportation are fully coordinated with other related~~  
21 ~~responsibilities of the department of transportation. In this~~  
22 ~~capacity, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the director of~~  
23 ~~the traffic safety commission, the executive director of the county~~  
24 ~~road administration board, and the director of licensing shall~~  
25 ~~consult with the transportation commission and the secretary of~~  
26 ~~transportation on the implications and impacts on the transportation~~  
27 ~~related functions and duties of their respective agencies of any~~  
28 ~~proposed comprehensive transportation plan, program, or policy.))~~

29 In order to develop fully integrated, balanced, and coordinated  
30 transportation plans, programs, and budgets the chief of the  
31 Washington state patrol, the director of the traffic safety  
32 commission, the executive director of the county road administration  
33 board, and the director of licensing shall consult with the secretary  
34 of transportation on the matter of relative priorities during the  
35 development of their respective agencies' plans, programs, and  
36 budgets as they pertain to transportation activities.

37 **Sec. 7.** RCW 47.12.330 and 1998 c 181 s 2 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 For the purpose of environmental mitigation of transportation  
2 projects, the department may acquire or develop, or both acquire and  
3 develop, environmental mitigation sites in advance of the  
4 construction of programmed projects. The term "advanced environmental  
5 mitigation" means mitigation of adverse impacts upon the environment  
6 from transportation projects before their design and construction.  
7 Advanced environmental mitigation consists of the acquisition of  
8 property; the acquisition of property, water, or air rights; the  
9 development of property for the purposes of improved environmental  
10 management; engineering costs necessary for such purchase and  
11 development; and the use of advanced environmental mitigation sites  
12 to fulfill project environmental permit requirements. Advanced  
13 environmental mitigation must be conducted in a manner that is  
14 consistent with the definition of mitigation found in the council of  
15 environmental quality regulations (40 C.F.R. Sec. 1508.20) and the  
16 governor's executive order on wetlands (EO 90-04). Advanced  
17 environmental mitigation is for projects (~~approved by the~~  
18 ~~transportation commission as part of the state's six-year plan or~~)  
19 included in the state highway system plan. Advanced environmental  
20 mitigation must give consideration to activities related to fish  
21 passage, fish habitat, wetlands, and flood management. Advanced  
22 environmental mitigation may also be conducted in partnership with  
23 federal, state, or local government agencies, tribal governments,  
24 interest groups, or private parties. Partnership arrangements may  
25 include joint acquisition and development of mitigation sites,  
26 purchasing and selling mitigation bank credits among participants,  
27 and transfer of mitigation site title from one party to another.  
28 Specific conditions of partnership arrangements will be developed in  
29 written agreements for each applicable environmental mitigation site.

30 **Sec. 8.** RCW 47.06.040 and 2002 c 189 s 4 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 The department shall develop a statewide multimodal  
33 transportation plan (~~under RCW 47.01.071(3) and~~) in conformance  
34 with federal requirements, to ensure the continued mobility of people  
35 and goods within regions and across the state in a safe, cost-  
36 effective manner. The statewide multimodal transportation plan shall  
37 consist of:

1 (1) A state-owned facilities component, which shall guide state  
2 investment for state highways including bicycle and pedestrian  
3 facilities, and state ferries; and

4 (2) A state-interest component, which shall define the state  
5 interest in aviation, marine ports and navigation, freight rail,  
6 intercity passenger rail, bicycle transportation and pedestrian  
7 walkways, and public transportation, and recommend actions in  
8 coordination with appropriate public and private transportation  
9 providers to ensure that the state interest in these transportation  
10 modes is met.

11 The plans developed under each component must be consistent  
12 (~~with the state transportation policy plan and~~) with each other,  
13 reflect public involvement, be consistent with regional  
14 transportation planning, high capacity transportation planning, and  
15 local comprehensive plans prepared under chapter 36.70A RCW, and  
16 include analysis of intermodal connections and choices. A primary  
17 emphasis for these plans shall be the relief of congestion, the  
18 preservation of existing investments and downtowns, ability to  
19 attract or accommodate planned population, and employment growth, the  
20 improvement of traveler safety, the efficient movement of freight and  
21 goods, and the improvement and integration of all transportation  
22 modes to create a seamless intermodal transportation system for  
23 people and goods.

24 In the development of the statewide multimodal transportation  
25 plan, the department shall identify and document potential affected  
26 environmental resources, including, but not limited to, wetlands,  
27 stormwater runoff, flooding, air quality, fish passage, and wildlife  
28 habitat. The department shall conduct its environmental  
29 identification and documentation in coordination with all relevant  
30 environmental regulatory authorities, including, but not limited to,  
31 local governments. The department shall give the relevant  
32 environmental regulatory authorities an opportunity to review the  
33 department's environmental plans. The relevant environmental  
34 regulatory authorities shall provide comments on the department's  
35 environmental plans in a timely manner. Environmental identification  
36 and documentation as provided for in RCW 47.01.300 and this section  
37 is not intended to create a private right of action or require an  
38 environmental impact statement as provided in chapter 43.21C RCW.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    The following acts or parts of acts are  
2 each repealed:

3        (1) RCW 47.01.075 (Transportation policy development) and 2007 c  
4 516 s 5, 2006 c 334 s 4, & 2005 c 319 s 6; and

5        (2) RCW 47.26.440 (Budget for expenditures from funds  
6 administered by board—Estimate of revenues) and 1994 c 179 s 25, 1988  
7 c 167 s 32, 1984 c 7 s 163, & 1967 ex.s. c 83 s 54.

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