
HOUSE BILL 2646

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Wylie, Stonier, Tharinger, Clibborn, McBride, Harris, Macri, Cody, and Tarleton

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating transportation projects of
2 statewide significance; adding new sections to chapter 47.05 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington's
6 transportation needs are increasing as both a surge in trade and
7 population create demand on the system. Large transportation projects
8 that provide improvements in accessibility, freight mobility, and
9 safety, as well as maximize economic development, are critical to
10 Washington's future. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize
11 transportation projects of statewide significance, and to expedite
12 their completion through the establishment of a formal process of
13 coordination.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) A transportation project of statewide significance means a
17 project that will:

18 (a) Improve accessibility for a significant number of Washington
19 residents;

1 (b) Improve the reliability of commute times for residents of the
2 area;

3 (c) Improve the movement of freight through the corridor;

4 (d) Provide safety improvements and contribute to a reduction in
5 injuries and fatalities;

6 (e) Maximize opportunities for economic development in the
7 region;

8 (f) Make improvement to transit, pedestrian, and bike access; and

9 (g) Serve as a critical route for both national and state
10 defense.

11 (2) A transportation project of statewide significance must be
12 valued in excess of one billion dollars.

13 (3) A transportation project of statewide significance must
14 provide the direct employment of one thousand five hundred persons
15 over the life of the project.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The department shall:

19 (a) Develop an application for designation of transportation
20 projects as transportation projects of statewide significance. The
21 application must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the
22 legislative authority of any jurisdiction that will have the proposed
23 transportation project of statewide significance within its
24 boundaries. No designation of a project as a transportation project
25 of statewide significance shall be made without the letter of
26 approval, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The
27 letter of approval must state that the jurisdiction joins in the
28 request for the designation of the transportation project as one of
29 statewide significance and has or will hire the professional staff
30 that will be required to expedite the processes necessary to the
31 completion of a transportation project of statewide significance. The
32 transportation project proponents may provide the funding necessary
33 for the jurisdiction to hire the professional staff that will be
34 required to so expedite. The application must contain information
35 regarding the location of the project, how the project meets the
36 criteria specified in section 2 of this act, and other information
37 required by the department; and

38 (b) Designate a transportation project as a transportation
39 project of statewide significance if the department determines, after

1 review of the application under criteria adopted by rule, the
2 transportation project will meet the criteria listed in section 2(1)
3 of this act.

4 (2) Any project designated by the legislature and codified in
5 this chapter is not subject to the application requirements set out
6 in subsection (1) of this section. However, the project is subject to
7 the coordination process in subsection (3) of this section.

8 (3) The department shall assign a project facilitator or
9 coordinator to each transportation project of statewide significance
10 to:

11 (a) Assemble a team of state and local government and private
12 officials to help meet the planning, permitting, and development
13 needs of each project. The team must include those responsible for
14 planning, permitting, and licensing, infrastructure development,
15 workforce development services, including higher education,
16 transportation services, and the provision of utilities; and

17 (b) Work with each team member to expedite their actions in
18 furtherance of the project and coordinate any cross border
19 communications, if applicable.

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