
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6466

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Prentice, Nelson, Vognild, Hochstatter, Drew, Loveland, Sheldon, Schow, Williams, Erwin and Winsley)

Read first time 02/03/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to environmental processes for the department of
2 transportation; amending RCW 47.01.290 and 47.06.040; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 47.01 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.01.290 and 1993 c 55 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 ~~((The state interest component of the state wide transportation~~
8 ~~plan must include a state public transportation plan that recognizes~~
9 ~~that while public transportation service is essentially a local~~
10 ~~responsibility in Washington, there is significant state interest in~~
11 ~~assuring that viable public transportation services are available~~
12 ~~throughout the state. The public transportation plan shall:~~

13 ~~(1) Articulate the state vision of and interest in public~~
14 ~~transportation and provide quantifiable objectives, including benefits~~
15 ~~indicators;~~

16 ~~(2) Identify the goals for public transportation and the roles of~~
17 ~~federal, state, regional, and local entities in achieving those goals;~~

18 ~~(3) Recommend mechanisms for coordinating federal, state, regional,~~
19 ~~and local planning for public transportation;~~

1 ~~(4) Recommend mechanisms for coordinating public transportation~~
2 ~~with other transportation services and modes;~~

3 ~~(5) Recommend criteria, consistent with the goals identified in~~
4 ~~subsection (2) of this section and with RCW 82.44.180 (2) and (3), for~~
5 ~~existing federal authorizations administered by the department to~~
6 ~~transit agencies; and~~

7 ~~(6) Recommend a state-wide public transportation facilities and~~
8 ~~equipment management system as required by federal law.~~

9 ~~In developing the state public transportation plan, the department~~
10 ~~shall involve local jurisdictions, public and private providers of~~
11 ~~public transportation services, nonmotorized interests, and state~~
12 ~~agencies with an interest in public transportation, including but not~~
13 ~~limited to the departments of community development, social and health~~
14 ~~services, and ecology, the state energy office, the office of financial~~
15 ~~management, and the office of the governor.~~

16 ~~The department shall submit an initial report to the legislative~~
17 ~~transportation committee by December 1, 1993, and shall provide annual~~
18 ~~reports summarizing the plan's progress each year thereafter.)) The~~
19 ~~legislature recognizes that environmental review of transportation~~
20 ~~projects is a continuous process that should begin at the earliest~~
21 ~~stages of planning and continue through final project construction.~~
22 ~~Early and extensive involvement of the relevant environmental~~
23 ~~regulatory authorities is critical in order to avoid significant~~
24 ~~changes in substantially completed project design and engineering. It~~
25 ~~is the expectation of the legislature that if a comprehensive~~
26 ~~environmental approach is integrated throughout various transportation~~
27 ~~processes, onerous, duplicative, and time-consuming permit processes~~
28 ~~will be minimized.~~

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The department shall, in cooperation with environmental regulatory
32 authorities:

33 (1) Identify and document environmental resources in the
34 development of the state-wide multimodal plan under RCW 47.06.040;

35 (2) Allow for public comment regarding changes to the criteria used
36 for prioritizing projects under chapter 47.05 RCW before final adoption
37 of the changes by the commission;

1 (3) Use an environmental review as part of the project prospectus
2 identifying potential environmental impacts, mitigation, and costs
3 during the early project identification and selection phase, submit the
4 prospectus to the relevant environmental regulatory authorities, and
5 maintain a record of comments and proposed revisions received from the
6 authorities;

7 (4) Actively work with the relevant environmental regulatory
8 authorities during the design alternative analysis process and seek
9 written concurrence from the authorities that they agree with the
10 preferred design alternative selected;

11 (5) Develop a uniform methodology, in consultation with relevant
12 environmental regulatory authorities, for submitting plans and
13 specifications detailing project elements that impact environmental
14 resources, and proposed mitigation measures, to the relevant
15 environmental regulatory authorities during the preliminary
16 specifications and engineering phase of project development;

17 (6) Screen construction projects to determine which projects will
18 require complex or multiple permits. The permitting authorities shall
19 develop methods for initiating review of the permit applications for
20 the projects before the final design of the projects;

21 (7) Conduct special prebid meetings for those projects that are
22 environmentally complex; and

23 (8) Review environmental considerations related to particular
24 projects during the preconstruction meeting held with the contractor
25 who is awarded the bid.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.06.040 and 1993 c 446 s 4 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 The department shall develop a state-wide multimodal transportation
29 plan under RCW 47.01.071(3) and in conformance with federal
30 requirements, to ensure the continued mobility of people and goods
31 within regions and across the state in a safe, cost-effective manner.
32 The state-wide multimodal transportation plan shall consist of:

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

36 (2) A state-interest component, which shall define the state
37 interest in aviation, marine ports and navigation, freight rail,
38 intercity passenger rail, bicycle transportation and pedestrian

1 walkways, and public transportation, and recommend actions in
2 coordination with appropriate public and private transportation
3 providers to ensure that the state interest in these transportation
4 modes is met.

5 The plans developed under each component must be consistent with
6 the state transportation policy plan and with each other, reflect
7 public involvement, be consistent with regional transportation
8 planning, high-capacity transportation planning, and local
9 comprehensive plans prepared under chapter 36.70A RCW, and include
10 analysis of intermodal connections and choices. A primary emphasis for
11 these plans shall be the improvement and integration of all
12 transportation modes to create a seamless intermodal transportation
13 system for people and goods.

14 In the development of the state-wide multimodal transportation
15 plan, the department shall identify and document potential affected
16 environmental resources, including, but not limited to, wetlands, storm
17 water runoff, flooding, air quality, fish passage, and wildlife
18 habitat. The department shall conduct its environmental identification
19 and documentation in coordination with all relevant environmental
20 regulatory authorities, including, but not limited to, local
21 governments. The department shall give the relevant environmental
22 regulatory authorities an opportunity to review the department's
23 environmental plans. The relevant environmental regulatory authorities
24 shall provide comments on the department's environmental plans in a
25 timely manner. Environmental identification and documentation as
26 provided for in section 2 of this act and this section is not intended
27 to require an environmental impact statement as provided in chapter
28 43.21C RCW.

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