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HOUSE BILL 1928

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1993 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Fisher, Quall, Locke, Roland and Johanson

Read first time 02/17/93. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to regional transportation planning; amending RCW  
2 47.80.030, 35.58.2795, 35.77.010, and 36.81.121; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 47.80 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective date;  
4 and declaring an emergency.

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

6            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        LEGISLATIVE INTENT.        The legislature  
7 recognizes that recent legislative enactments have significantly added  
8 to the complexity of and to the potential for benefits from integrated  
9 transportation and comprehensive planning and that there is currently  
10 a unique opportunity for integration of local comprehensive plans and  
11 regional goals with state and local transportation programs. Further,  
12 approaches to transportation demand management initiatives and local  
13 and state transportation funding can be better coordinated to insure an  
14 efficient, effective transportation system that insures mobility and  
15 addresses community needs.

16            The legislature further finds that transportation and land use  
17 share a critical relationship that policy makers can better utilize to  
18 address regional strategies.

1 Prudent investment by the state and by local governments in highway  
2 facilities, local streets and arterials, marine facilities,  
3 nonmotorized transportation facilities and systems, public transit  
4 systems, transportation system management, and the development of high  
5 capacity transit systems can help to effectively address mobility  
6 needs. Such investment can also enhance local and state objectives for  
7 effective comprehensive planning, clean air policies, and  
8 transportation demand management.

9 The legislature finds that addressing public initiatives regarding  
10 transportation and comprehensive planning necessitates an innovative  
11 approach. Improved integration between transportation and  
12 comprehensive planning among public institutions, particularly in the  
13 state's largest metropolitan areas is considered by the state to be  
14 imperative, and to have significant benefit to the citizens of  
15 Washington.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** ORGANIZATION'S DUTIES. Each regional  
17 transportation planning organization shall have the following duties:

18 (1) Prepare and update periodically a regional growth and  
19 transportation strategy for the region. The strategy shall address  
20 alternative regional development patterns and alternative  
21 transportation modes in regional corridors and shall recommend a  
22 preferred regional development pattern and transportation policies to  
23 implement that pattern. The strategy shall serve as a guide in  
24 preparation of the regional transportation plan.

25 (2) Prepare a regional transportation plan as set forth in RCW  
26 47.80.030.

27 (3) Where local comprehensive plans exist, certify that the  
28 transportation elements of such plans adopted by counties, cities, and  
29 towns within the region conform with the requirements of RCW  
30 36.70A.070, reflect the guidelines and principles developed pursuant to  
31 section 3 of this act, and are consistent with the adopted regional  
32 transportation plan.

33 (4) Where appropriate, certify that county-wide planning policies  
34 adopted under RCW 36.70A.210 are consistent with the adopted regional  
35 transportation plan.

36 (5) Develop, in cooperation with the department of transportation,  
37 operators of public transportation services and local governments  
38 within the region, a six-year regional transportation improvement

1 program which proposes regionally significant transportation projects  
2 and programs. The program shall include a priority list of projects  
3 and programs, project segments and programs, and a specific financial  
4 plan that demonstrates how the transportation improvement program can  
5 be funded. The program shall be updated at least every two years for  
6 the ensuing six-year period.

7 (6) Designate a lead planning agency to coordinate preparation of  
8 the regional transportation plan and carry out the other  
9 responsibilities of the organization. The lead planning agency may be  
10 the organization itself, a component county, city, or town agency, or  
11 the appropriate Washington state department of transportation district  
12 office.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** COMPREHENSIVE PLANS, TRANSPORTATION  
14 GUIDELINES, AND PRINCIPLES. Each regional transportation planning  
15 organization, with cooperation from component cities, towns, and  
16 counties, shall establish guidelines and principles that provide  
17 specific direction for the development and evaluation of the  
18 transportation elements of comprehensive plans, where such plans exist,  
19 and to assure that state, regional, and local goals for the development  
20 of transportation systems are met. These guidelines and principles  
21 shall address at a minimum the relationship between transportation  
22 systems and the following factors: Concentration of economic activity,  
23 residential density, development corridors and urban design that, where  
24 appropriate, supports high capacity transit, freight transportation and  
25 port access, development patterns that promote pedestrian and  
26 nonmotorized transportation, circulation systems, access to regional  
27 systems, effective and efficient highway systems, the ability of  
28 transportation facilities and programs to accommodate growth in demand,  
29 transportation demand management, joint and mixed use developments, and  
30 intermodal connections.

31 Examples shall be published by the organization to assist local  
32 governments in interpreting and explaining the requirements of this  
33 section.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.80.030 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 55 are each  
35 amended to read as follows:

36 (1) Each regional transportation planning organization shall((+)

1       ~~(a) Certify that the transportation elements of comprehensive plans~~  
2 ~~adopted by counties, cities, and towns within the region conform with~~  
3 ~~the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070, and are consistent with regional~~  
4 ~~transportation plans as provided for in (b) of this subsection;~~

5       ~~(b)) develop ((and adopt)) in cooperation with the department of~~  
6 ~~transportation, providers of public transportation and high capacity~~  
7 ~~transportation, ports, and local governments within the region, adopt,~~  
8 ~~and periodically update a regional transportation plan that ~~((is~~  
9 ~~consistent with county, city, and town comprehensive plans and state~~  
10 ~~transportation plans. Regional transportation planning organizations~~  
11 ~~are encouraged to use county, city, and town comprehensive plans that~~  
12 ~~existed prior to July 1, 1990, as the basis of its regional~~  
13 ~~transportation plan whenever possible. Such plans shall address)):~~~~

14       ~~(a) Identifies existing or planned transportation facilities~~  
15 ~~~~((and)), services, and programs, including but not limited to major~~~~  
16 ~~roadways including state highways and regional arterials, transit and~~  
17 ~~nonmotorized services and facilities, multimodal and intermodal~~  
18 ~~facilities, marine ports and airports, and noncapital programs~~  
19 ~~including transportation demand management that should function as an~~  
20 ~~integrated regional transportation system, giving emphasis to those~~  
21 ~~facilities, services, and programs that exhibit one or more of the~~  
22 ~~following characteristics:~~

23       ~~(i) Physically crosses member county lines;~~

24       ~~(ii) Is or will be used by a significant number of people who live~~  
25 ~~or work outside the county in which the facility, service, or project~~  
26 ~~is located;~~

27       ~~(iii) Significant impacts are expected to be felt in more than one~~  
28 ~~county;~~

29       ~~(iv) Potentially adverse impacts of the facility, service, program,~~  
30 ~~or project can be better avoided or mitigated through adherence to~~  
31 ~~regional policies; and~~

32       ~~(v) Transportation needs addressed by a project have been~~  
33 ~~identified by the regional transportation planning process and the~~  
34 ~~remedy is deemed to have regional significance;~~

35       ~~~~((c) Designate a lead planning agency to coordinate preparation of~~~~  
36 ~~the regional transportation plan. The lead planning agency may be a~~  
37 ~~regional council, a county, city, or town agency, or a Washington state~~  
38 ~~department of transportation district;~~

1 ~~(d))~~ (b) Includes a financial plan demonstrating how the regional  
2 transportation plan can be implemented, indicating resources from  
3 public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made  
4 available to carry out the plan, and recommending any innovative  
5 financing techniques to finance needed facilities, services, and  
6 programs;

7 (c) Assesses regional development patterns, capital investment and  
8 other measures necessary to:

9 (i) Ensure the preservation of the existing regional transportation  
10 system, including requirements for operational improvements,  
11 resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation of existing and future  
12 major roadways, as well as operations, maintenance, modernization, and  
13 rehabilitation of existing and future transit and nonmotorized  
14 facilities; and

15 (ii) Make the most efficient use of existing transportation  
16 facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the mobility of  
17 people and goods;

18 (d) Sets forth a proposed regional transportation approach,  
19 including capital investments, service improvements, and programs, to  
20 guide the development of the integrated, multimodal regional  
21 transportation system; and

22 (e) Where appropriate, sets forth the relationship of high capacity  
23 transportation providers and other public transit providers with regard  
24 to responsibility for, and the coordination between, services and  
25 facilities.

26 (2) The organization shall review the regional transportation plan  
27 biennially for currency(~~(+)~~) and

28 (~~(e)~~) forward the adopted plan(~~(, and)~~) along with documentation  
29 of the biennial review (~~(of it,)~~) to the state department of  
30 transportation.

31 (~~(2)~~) (3) All transportation projects and programs within the  
32 region that have an impact upon regional facilities or services must be  
33 consistent with the plan and with the adopted regional growth and  
34 transportation strategies.

35 (~~(3)~~ In order to ensure state-wide consistency in the regional  
36 transportation planning process, the state department of transportation  
37 shall:

1       ~~(a) In cooperation with regional transportation planning~~  
2 ~~organizations, establish minimum standards for development of a~~  
3 ~~regional transportation plan;~~  
4       ~~(b) Facilitate coordination between regional transportation~~  
5 ~~planning organizations; and~~  
6       ~~(c) Through the regional transportation planning process, and~~  
7 ~~through state planning efforts as required by RCW 47.01.071, identify~~  
8 ~~and jointly plan improvements and strategies within those corridors~~  
9 ~~important to moving people and goods on a regional or state-wide~~  
10 ~~basis.))~~

11       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   STATE-WIDE CONSISTENCY.   In order to ensure  
12 state-wide consistency in the regional transportation planning process,  
13 the state department of transportation shall:

14       (1) In cooperation with regional transportation planning  
15 organizations, establish minimum standards for development of a  
16 regional transportation plan;

17       (2) Facilitate coordination between regional transportation  
18 planning organizations; and

19       (3) Through the regional transportation planning process, and  
20 through state planning efforts as required by RCW 47.01.071, identify  
21 and jointly plan improvements and strategies within those corridors  
22 important to moving people and goods on a regional or state-wide basis.

23       **Sec. 6.**   RCW 35.58.2795 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 60 are each  
24 amended to read as follows:

25       By April 1st of each year, the legislative authority of each  
26 municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and each regional transit  
27 authority shall prepare a six-year transit development ((and financial  
28 program)) plan for that calendar year and the ensuing five years. The  
29 program shall be consistent with the comprehensive plans adopted by  
30 counties, cities, and towns, pursuant to chapter 35.63, 35A.63, or  
31 36.70 RCW, the inherent authority of a first class city or charter  
32 county derived from its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW. The program  
33 shall contain information as to how the municipality intends to meet  
34 state and local long-range priorities for public transportation,  
35 capital improvements, significant operating changes planned for the  
36 system, and how the municipality intends to fund program needs. The  
37 six-year plan for each municipality and regional transit authority

1 shall specifically set forth those projects of regional significance  
2 for inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that  
3 region. Each municipality and regional transit authority shall file  
4 the six-year program with the state department of transportation, the  
5 transportation improvement board, and cities, counties, and regional  
6 planning councils within which the municipality is located.

7 In developing its program, the municipality and the regional  
8 transit authority shall consider those policy recommendations affecting  
9 public transportation contained in the state transportation policy plan  
10 approved by the state transportation commission and, where appropriate,  
11 adopted by the legislature. The municipality shall conduct one or more  
12 public hearings while developing its program and for each annual  
13 update.

14 **Sec. 7.** RCW 35.77.010 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 59 are each  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The legislative body of each city and town, pursuant to one or  
17 more public hearings thereon, shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive  
18 ((~~street~~)) transportation program for the ensuing six calendar years.  
19 If the city or town has adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to  
20 chapter 35.63 or 35A.63 RCW, the inherent authority of a first class  
21 city derived from its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW, the program shall  
22 be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

23 The program shall be filed with the secretary of transportation not  
24 more than thirty days after its adoption. Annually thereafter the  
25 legislative body of each city and town shall review the work  
26 accomplished under the program and determine current city ((~~street~~))  
27 transportation needs. Based on these findings each such legislative  
28 body shall prepare and after public hearings thereon adopt a revised  
29 and extended comprehensive ((~~street~~)) transportation program before  
30 July 1st of each year, and each one-year extension and revision shall  
31 be filed with the secretary of transportation not more than thirty days  
32 after its adoption. The purpose of this section is to assure that each  
33 city and town shall perpetually have available advanced plans looking  
34 to the future for not less than six years as a guide in carrying out a  
35 coordinated ((~~street—construction~~)) transportation program. The  
36 program may at any time be revised by a majority of the legislative  
37 body of a city or town, but only after a public hearing.

1        The six-year plan for each city or town shall specifically set  
2 forth those projects and programs of regional significance for  
3 inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that region.

4        The six-year transportation program of each city lying within an  
5 urban area shall contain a separate section setting forth the six-year  
6 program for arterial street construction based upon its long range  
7 construction plan and formulated in accordance with rules of the  
8 transportation improvement board. The six-year program for arterial  
9 street construction shall be submitted to the transportation  
10 improvement board forthwith after its annual revision and adoption by  
11 the legislative body of the city. The six-year program for arterial  
12 street construction shall be based upon estimated revenues available  
13 for such construction together with such additional sums as the  
14 legislative authority may request for urban arterials from the urban  
15 arterial trust account or the transportation improvement account for  
16 the six-year period. The arterial street construction program shall  
17 provide for a more rapid rate of completion of the long-range  
18 construction needs of principal arterial streets than for minor and  
19 collector arterial streets, pursuant to rules of the transportation  
20 improvement board: PROVIDED, That urban arterial trust funds made  
21 available to the group of incorporated cities lying outside the  
22 boundaries of federally approved urban areas within each region need  
23 not be divided between functional classes of arterials but shall be  
24 available for any designated arterial street.

25        (2) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary  
26 in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain  
27 information as to how a city or town will expend its moneys, including  
28 funds made available pursuant to chapter 47.30 RCW, for (~~bicycle,~~  
29 ~~pedestrian, and equestrian~~) nonmotorized transportation purposes.

30        **Sec. 8.** RCW 36.81.121 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 58 are each  
31 amended to read as follows:

32        (1) Before July 1st of each year, the legislative authority of each  
33 county (~~with the advice and assistance of the county road engineer,~~  
34 ~~and pursuant to~~), after one or more public hearings thereon, shall  
35 prepare and adopt a comprehensive (~~road~~) transportation program for  
36 the ensuing six calendar years. If the county has adopted a  
37 comprehensive plan pursuant to chapter 35.63 or 36.70 RCW, the inherent  
38 authority of a charter county derived from its charter, or chapter



1 36.70A RCW, the program shall be consistent with this comprehensive  
2 plan.

3 The program shall include proposed road and bridge construction  
4 work and other transportation facilities and programs deemed  
5 appropriate, and for those counties operating ferries shall also  
6 include a separate section showing proposed capital expenditures for  
7 ferries, docks, and related facilities. Copies of the program shall be  
8 filed with the county road administration board and with the state  
9 secretary of transportation not more than thirty days after its  
10 adoption by the legislative authority. The purpose of this section is  
11 to assure that each county shall perpetually have available advanced  
12 plans looking to the future for not less than six years as a guide in  
13 carrying out a coordinated ((road—construction)) transportation  
14 program. The program may at any time be revised by a majority of the  
15 legislative authority but only after a public hearing thereon.

16 (2) The six-year transportation program of each county having an  
17 urban area within its boundaries shall contain a separate section  
18 setting forth the six-year program for arterial road construction based  
19 upon its long-range construction plan and formulated in accordance with  
20 regulations of the transportation improvement board. The six-year  
21 program for arterial road construction shall be submitted to the  
22 transportation improvement board forthwith after its annual revision  
23 and adoption by the legislative authority of each county. The six-year  
24 program for arterial road construction shall be based upon estimated  
25 revenues available for such construction together with such additional  
26 sums as the legislative authority of each county may request for urban  
27 arterials from the urban arterial trust account or the transportation  
28 improvement account for the six-year period. The arterial road  
29 construction program shall provide for a more rapid rate of completion  
30 of the long-range construction needs of principal arterial roads than  
31 for minor and collector arterial roads, pursuant to regulations of the  
32 transportation improvement board.

33 (3) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary  
34 in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain  
35 information as to how a county will expend its moneys, including funds  
36 made available pursuant to chapter 47.30 RCW, for ((bicycles,  
37 pedestrians, and equestrian)) nonmotorized transportation purposes.

1       (4) The six-year plan for each county shall specifically set forth  
2 those projects and programs of regional significance for inclusion in  
3 the transportation improvement program within that region.

4       NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 1 through 3 and 5 of this act are  
5 each added to chapter 47.80 RCW.

6       NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. Captions used in this act do not constitute  
7 any part of the law.

8       NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. If any provision of this act or its  
9 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
10 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
11 persons or circumstances is not affected.

12       NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. This act is necessary for the immediate  
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
15 effect July 1, 1993.

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