
SENATE BILL 5537

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Prentice, Esser, Rossi, Finkbeiner, Johnson, T. Sheldon, Roach and Stevens

Read first time 01/29/2003. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation alternatives in central Puget
2 Sound; and adding a new section to chapter 81.112 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Unless the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (also
7 known as Sound Transit) submits to the voters, in the relevant service
8 area at the next general election after the effective date of this act,
9 a ballot proposition to provide for funding of the Link Light Rail
10 system in accordance with RCW 81.112.030(8); and unless the proposition
11 is approved, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority shall
12 not make any expenditure, nor issue bonds, nor enter into any
13 borrowing, agreement, or commitment, for purposes of implementing the
14 Link Light Rail system from SeaTac to downtown Seattle or Northgate, or
15 in any nearby corridor.

16 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not affect any power of the
17 Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority to implement programs
18 other than Link Light Rail, including but not limited to commuter rail

1 (Sounder), monorail, intercity bus service, park and ride lots, other
2 programs, or light rail in Tacoma, Washington.

3 (3) The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority shall
4 promptly assess all resources intended or expected to be used before
5 the effective date of this act for Link Light Rail (including but not
6 limited to all cash or other assets, debt capacity or limits, and
7 rights under agreements with other entities), and determine the best
8 alternative use of all such resources, as between any of the following
9 alternatives or any combination of them:

10 (a) A monorail line to replace Link Light Rail, in the general
11 SeaTac-to-Northgate corridor;

12 (b) Expanded commuter rail service;

13 (c) Expanded bus or vanpool service; and

14 (d) Any other allowed service.

15 In connection with this determination, the Central Puget Sound
16 Regional Transit Authority shall conduct a least six public hearings
17 and shall consult with, and obtain the views of, the Seattle Popular
18 Monorail Authority, and shall consider the need for rapid regional
19 transit connecting major destinations for employment, shopping,
20 recreation, and transportation purposes. If voter approval of Link
21 Light Rail is not obtained under subsection (1) of this section, the
22 Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority shall reprogram Link
23 Light Rail resources to the chosen alternatives and proceed with
24 implementation. If the monorail alternative provides ridership and
25 travel time benefits at least equal to that provided by Link Light Rail
26 at a lower monetary cost, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit
27 Authority shall reprogram Link Light Rail resources to monorail, and
28 the monorail alternative will be deemed to fully satisfy any obligation
29 of the authority to implement light rail arising from prior voter
30 approval of a regional light rail system.

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