
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3096

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Clibborn and McIntire; by request of Governor Gregoire)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to financing the state route number 520 bridge
2 replacement project; adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; adding
3 new sections to chapter 47.56 RCW; creating new sections; and providing
4 an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the replacement
7 of the vulnerable state route number 520 bridge is a matter of urgency
8 for the safety of Washington's traveling public and the needs of the
9 transportation system in central Puget Sound. The state route number
10 520 bridge is forty-four years old and has a useful remaining life of
11 between thirteen and eighteen years. While one hundred fifteen
12 thousand vehicles travel on the bridge each day, there is an ever
13 present likelihood that wind or an earthquake could suddenly destroy
14 the bridge or render it unusable. Therefore, the state must develop a
15 comprehensive approach to fund a state route number 520 bridge
16 replacement to be constructed by 2018.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) The SR 520 bridge replacement and HOV project shall be designed
2 to provide six total lanes, with two lanes that are for transit and
3 high-occupancy vehicle travel, and four general purpose lanes.

4 (2) The SR 520 bridge replacement and HOV project shall be designed
5 to accommodate effective connections for transit, including high
6 capacity transit, to the light rail station at the University of
7 Washington.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The SR 520 bridge replacement and HOV project finance plan must
11 include:

12 (1) Recognition of revenue sources that include: One billion seven
13 hundred million dollars in state and federal funds allocated to the
14 project; one billion five hundred million dollars to two billion
15 dollars in tolling revenue, including early tolls that could begin in
16 late 2009; eighty-five million dollars in federal urban partnership
17 grant funds; and other contributions from private and other government
18 sources; and

19 (2) Recognition of savings to be realized from:

20 (a) Potential early construction of traffic improvements from the
21 eastern Lake Washington shoreline to 108th Avenue Northeast in
22 Bellevue;

23 (b) Early construction of a single string of pontoons to support
24 two lanes that are for transit and high-occupancy vehicle travel and
25 four general purpose lanes;

26 (c) Preconstruction tolling to reduce total financing costs; and

27 (d) A rebate of the sales taxes paid on construction costs, which
28 will be dedicated to construction of the project.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 (1) Following the submission of the report required in section 6 of
32 this act, the department may seek authorization from the legislature to
33 collect tolls on the existing state route number 520 bridge or on a
34 replacement state route number 520 bridge.

35 (2) The schedule of toll charges must be established by the

1 transportation commission and collected in a manner determined by the
2 department.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall work with the federal highways administration
6 to determine the necessary actions for receiving federal authorization
7 to toll the interstate 90 floating bridge. The department must
8 periodically report the status of those discussions to the governor and
9 the joint transportation committee.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The executive director of the Puget
11 Sound regional council, the secretary of the department of
12 transportation or his or her designee, and a member of the state
13 transportation commission from King county shall form a state route
14 number 520 tolling implementation committee.

15 (2) The committee must:

16 (a) Evaluate the potential diversion of traffic from state route
17 number 520 to other parts of the transportation system, including state
18 route number 522 and local roadways, when tolls are implemented on
19 state route number 520 or other corridors, and recommend mitigation
20 measures to address the diversion;

21 (b) Evaluate the most advanced tolling technology to ensure an
22 efficient and timely trip for users of the state route number 520
23 bridge;

24 (c) Evaluate available active traffic management technology to
25 determine the most effective options for technology that could manage
26 congestion on the state route number 520 bridge and other impacted
27 facilities;

28 (d) Explore opportunities to partner with the business community to
29 reduce congestion and financially contribute to the state route number
30 520 bridge replacement project;

31 (e) Confer with the mayors and city councils of jurisdictions
32 adjacent to the state route number 520 corridor, the state route number
33 522 corridor, and the Interstate 90 corridor regarding the
34 implementation of tolls, the impacts that the implementation of tolls
35 might have on the operation of the corridors, the diversion of traffic
36 to local streets, and potential mitigation measures;

1 (f) Conduct public work sessions and open houses to provide
2 information to citizens, including users of the bridge and business and
3 freight interests, regarding implementation of tolls on the state route
4 number 520 bridge and solicit citizen views on the following items:

5 (i) Funding a portion of the state route number 520 bridge
6 replacement project with tolls on the existing bridge;

7 (ii) Funding the state route number 520 bridge replacement project
8 and improvements on the Interstate 90 bridge with a toll paid by
9 drivers on both bridges;

10 (iii) Providing incentives and choices for users of the state route
11 number 520 bridge replacement project to use transit and to carpool;
12 and

13 (iv) Implementing variable tolling as a way to reduce congestion on
14 the facility; and

15 (g) Provide a report to the governor and the legislature by January
16 2009.

17 (3) The department of transportation shall provide staff support to
18 the committee.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this act expires February 1,
20 2009.

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