
HOUSE BILL 2217

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representative Simpson

Read first time 02/16/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of an expert review panel for
2 the Alaskan Way viaduct deep bore tunnel project by the transportation
3 commission; and adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature recognizes that the finance and project
8 implementation planning processes required for the state route 99 and
9 Alaskan Way viaduct deep bore tunnel project cannot guarantee
10 appropriate decisions unless key study assumptions are reasonable with
11 respect to the project. For the purposes of this section, the Alaskan
12 Way viaduct deep bore tunnel project, or tunnel project, means all
13 components of the project including, but not limited to, utilities
14 relocation, central seawall repair and replacement, transit
15 enhancements, and surface street improvements. To assure appropriate
16 finance plan and project implementation plan assumptions, an expert
17 review panel shall be appointed to provide independent financial and
18 technical review for development of a finance plan and project
19 implementation plan for the project described in this section.

1 (1) The expert review panel shall consist of five to ten members
2 who are recognized experts in relevant fields, such as planning,
3 engineering, finance, law, the environment, emerging transportation
4 technologies, geography, geology, and economics.

5 (2) The expert review panel shall be selected by the transportation
6 commission.

7 (3) The chair of the expert review panel shall be designated by the
8 chair of the transportation commission.

9 (4) The expert review panel shall, with respect to completion of
10 the tunnel project:

11 (a) Review the financing plan for the project to ensure that it
12 clearly identifies secured and anticipated funding sources and is
13 feasible and sufficient;

14 (b) Review the project implementation plan covering all state and
15 local permitting and mitigation approvals that ensure the most
16 expeditious and cost-effective delivery of the project; and

17 (c) Report its findings and recommendations on the items described
18 in (a) and (b) of this subsection to the joint transportation
19 committee, the transportation commission, the office of financial
20 management, and the governor by September 1, 2009.

21 (5) Upon receipt of the expert review panel's findings and
22 recommendations under subsection (4)(c) of this section, the governor
23 must make a finding of whether the finance plan is feasible and
24 sufficient to complete the project.

25 (6) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to delay
26 construction of any of the projects referenced in this section.

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