
HOUSE BILL 2911

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller, Takko, Ormsby, Morris, Nelson, Upthegrove, Lias, Williams, Simpson, Cody, Orwall, White, Morrell, and Kenney

Read first time 01/18/10. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a complete streets grant program;
2 adding new sections to chapter 47.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Urban main streets should be designed to
5 provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians,
6 motorists, and public transportation users. Context sensitive design
7 and engineering principles allow for flexible solutions depending on a
8 community's needs, and result in many positive outcomes for cities and
9 towns, including improving the health and safety of a community. It is
10 the intent of the legislature to encourage street designs that safely
11 meet the needs of all users and also protect and preserve a community's
12 environment and character.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The department shall establish a complete streets grant program
16 within the department's highways and local programs division, or its
17 successor. The purpose of the grant program is to encourage local

1 governments to adopt urban arterial retrofit street ordinances designed
2 to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians,
3 motorists, and public transportation users, with the goals of:

4 (a) Promoting healthy communities by encouraging walking,
5 bicycling, and using public transportation;

6 (b) Improving safety by designing major arterials to include
7 features such as wider sidewalks, dedicated bicycle facilities,
8 medians, and pedestrian streetscape features, including trees where
9 appropriate.

10 (c) Protecting the environment and reducing congestion by providing
11 safe alternatives to single-occupancy driving; and

12 (d) Preserving community character by involving local citizens and
13 stakeholders to participate in planning and design decisions.

14 (2) For purposes of this section:

15 (a) "Eligible project" means a local government street retrofit
16 project that includes the addition of, or significant repair to,
17 facilities that provide street access with all users in mind, including
18 pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation users.

19 (b) "Local government" means incorporated cities and towns with
20 populations of at least twenty thousand that have adopted a
21 jurisdiction-wide complete streets ordinance that plans for the needs
22 of all users and is consistent with sound engineering principles.

23 (c) "Sound engineering principles" means the 2006 urban design
24 principles and guidelines developed by the institute of transportation
25 engineers, titled "Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban
26 Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities," or subsequent updates to these
27 principles and guidelines published by the institute.

28 (3) In carrying out the purposes of this section, the department
29 may award funding, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated
30 for this specific purpose, only to eligible projects that are designed
31 consistent with sound engineering principles.

32 (4) The department must report annually to the transportation
33 committees of the legislature on the status of any grant projects
34 funded by the program created under this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04 RCW
36 to read as follows:

37 (1) The complete streets grant program account is created in the

1 state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after
2 appropriation. Only the department may authorize expenditures from the
3 account. Expenditures from the account may be used solely for the
4 grants provided under section 2 of this act.

5 (2) The department may solicit and receive gifts, grants, or
6 endowments from private and other sources that are made, in trust or
7 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the complete
8 streets grant program as provided in section 2 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 When constructing, retrofitting, or making major repairs to streets
12 described in RCW 47.24.010, the department must, for street projects
13 initially planned or scoped after July 1, 2010, and subject to a local
14 funding contribution as determined by the department:

15 (1) Consult with local jurisdictions in the design and planning
16 phases. Consultation with local jurisdictions must include public
17 outreach and meetings with interested stakeholders in the predesign
18 phase for the purpose of clarifying community goals and priorities
19 through community design exercises prior to developing any designs or
20 visualizations; and

21 (2) Consider the needs of all users by applying context sensitive
22 design solutions consistent with the institute of transportation
23 engineers' 2006 principles and guidelines, titled "Context Sensitive
24 Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable
25 Communities," or subsequent updates to these principles and guidelines
26 published by the institute.

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