
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5768

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Murray, Jarrett, Swecker, Haugen, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying the final design for the state route
2 number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project as a deep bore
3 tunnel; adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; creating a new
4 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

8 (1) The legislature finds that the replacement of the vulnerable
9 state route number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct is a matter of urgency for
10 the safety of Washington's traveling public and the needs of the
11 transportation system in central Puget Sound. The state route number
12 99 Alaskan Way viaduct is susceptible to damage, closure, or
13 catastrophic failure from earthquakes and tsunamis. Additionally, the
14 viaduct serves as a vital route for freight and passenger vehicles
15 through downtown Seattle.

16 Since 2001, the department has undertaken an extensive evaluation
17 of multiple options to replace the Alaskan Way viaduct, including an
18 initial evaluation of seventy-six conceptual alternatives and a more
19 detailed analysis of five alternatives in 2004. In addition to a

1 substantial technical review, the department has also undertaken
2 considerable public outreach, which included consultation with a
3 stakeholder advisory committee that met sixteen times over a thirteen-
4 month period.

5 Therefore, it is the conclusion of the legislature that time is of
6 the essence, and that Washington state cannot wait for a disaster to
7 make it fully appreciate the urgency of the need to replace this
8 vulnerable structure. The state shall take the necessary steps to
9 expedite the environmental review and design processes to replace the
10 Alaskan Way viaduct with a deep bore tunnel under First Avenue from the
11 vicinity of the sports stadiums in Seattle to Aurora Avenue north of
12 the Battery Street tunnel. The tunnel must include four general
13 purpose lanes in a stacked formation.

14 (2) The state route number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct replacement
15 project finance plan must include state funding not to exceed two
16 billion four hundred million dollars and must also include at least
17 four hundred million dollars in toll revenue. These funds must be used
18 solely to build a replacement tunnel, as described in subsection (1) of
19 this section, and to remove the existing state route number 99 Alaskan
20 Way viaduct. All costs associated with utility relocations for state
21 work as described in this section must be borne by the city of Seattle
22 and provided in a manner that meets project construction schedule
23 requirements as determined by the department. State funding is not
24 authorized for central seawall or waterfront promenade improvements.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of transportation must
26 prepare a traffic and revenue study for a state route number 99 deep
27 bore tunnel for the purpose of determining the facility's potential to
28 generate toll revenue. The department shall regularly report to the
29 transportation commission regarding the progress of the study for the
30 purpose of guiding the commission's toll setting on the facility. The
31 study must include the following information:

32 (1) An analysis of the potential diversion from state route number
33 99 to other parts of the transportation system resulting from tolls on
34 the facility;

35 (2) An analysis of potential mitigation measures to offset or
36 reduce diversion from state route number 99;

1 (3) A summary of the amount of revenue generated from tolling the
2 deep bore tunnel; and

3 (4) An analysis of the impact of tolls on the performance of the
4 facility.

5 The department must provide the results of the study to the
6 governor and the legislature by January 2010.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 immediately.

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