

ESB 5205 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Transportation

NOT CONSIDERED 04/22/2011

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 81.104.100 and 1992 c 101 s 23 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 To assure development of an effective high capacity transportation
6 system, local authorities shall follow the following planning process
7 only if their system plan includes a rail fixed guideway system
8 component or a bus rapid transit component that is planned by a
9 regional transit authority:

10 (1) Regional, multimodal transportation planning is the ongoing
11 urban transportation planning process conducted in each urbanized area
12 by its regional transportation planning organization. During this
13 process, regional transportation goals are identified, travel patterns
14 are analyzed, and future land use and travel are projected. The
15 process provides a comprehensive view of the region's transportation
16 needs but does not select specified modes to serve those needs. The
17 process shall identify a priority corridor or corridors for further
18 study of high capacity transportation facilities if it is deemed
19 feasible by local officials.

20 (2) High capacity transportation system planning is the detailed
21 evaluation of a range of high capacity transportation system options,
22 including: Do nothing, low capital, and ranges of higher capital
23 facilities. To the extent possible this evaluation shall take into
24 account the urban mass transportation administration's requirements
25 identified in subsection (3) of this section.

26 High capacity transportation system planning shall proceed as
27 follows:

28 (a) Organization and management. The responsible local transit
29 agency or agencies shall define roles for various local agencies,

1 review background information, provide for public involvement, and
2 develop a detailed work plan for the system planning process.

3 (b) Development of options. Options to be studied shall be
4 developed to ensure an appropriate range of technologies and service
5 policies can be evaluated. A do-nothing option and a low capital
6 option that maximizes the current system shall be developed. Several
7 higher capital options that consider a range of capital expenditures
8 for several candidate technologies shall be developed.

9 (c) Analysis methods. The local transit agency shall develop
10 reports describing the analysis and assumptions for the estimation of
11 capital costs, operating and maintenance costs, methods for travel
12 forecasting, a financial plan and an evaluation methodology.

13 (d) The system plan submitted to the voters pursuant to RCW
14 81.104.140 shall address, but is not limited to the following issues:

15 (i) Identification of level and types of high capacity
16 transportation services to be provided;

17 (ii) A plan of high occupancy vehicle lanes to be constructed;

18 (iii) Identification of route alignments and station locations with
19 sufficient specificity to permit calculation of costs, ridership, and
20 system impacts;

21 (iv) Performance characteristics of technologies in the system
22 plan;

23 (v) Patronage forecasts;

24 (vi) A financing plan describing: Phasing of investments; capital
25 and operating costs and expected revenues; cost-effectiveness
26 represented by a total cost per system rider and new rider estimate;
27 estimated ridership and the cost of service for each individual high
28 capacity line; and identification of the operating revenue to operating
29 expense ratio.

30 The financing plan shall specifically differentiate the proposed
31 use of funds between high capacity transportation facilities and
32 services, and high occupancy vehicle facilities;

33 (vii) Description of the relationship between the high capacity
34 transportation system plan and adopted land use plans;

35 (viii) An assessment of social, economic, and environmental
36 impacts; and

37 (ix) Mobility characteristics of the system presented, including
38 but not limited to: Qualitative description of system/service

1 philosophy and impacts; qualitative system reliability; travel time and
2 number of transfers between selected residential, employment, and
3 activity centers; and system and activity center mode splits.

4 (3) High capacity transportation project planning is the detailed
5 identification of alignments, station locations, equipment and systems,
6 construction schedules, environmental effects, and costs. High
7 capacity transportation project planning shall proceed as follows: The
8 local transit agency shall analyze and produce information needed for
9 the preparation of environmental impact statements. The impact
10 statements shall address the impact that development of such a system
11 will have on abutting or nearby property owners. The process of
12 identification of alignments and station locations shall include
13 notification of affected property owners by normal legal publication.
14 At minimum, such notification shall include notice on the same day for
15 at least three weeks in at least two newspapers of general circulation
16 in the county where such project is proposed. Special notice of
17 hearings by the conspicuous posting of notice, in a manner designed to
18 attract public attention, in the vicinity of areas identified for
19 station locations or transfer sites shall also be provided.

20 In order to increase the likelihood of future federal funding, the
21 project planning processes shall follow the urban mass transportation
22 administration's requirements as described in "Procedures and Technical
23 Methods for Transit Project Planning", published by the United States
24 department of transportation, urban mass transportation administration,
25 September 1986, or the most recent edition. Nothing in this subsection
26 shall be construed to preclude detailed evaluation of more than one
27 corridor in the planning process.

28 The department of transportation shall provide system and project
29 planning review and monitoring in cooperation with the expert review
30 panel identified in RCW 81.104.110. In addition, the local transit
31 agency shall maintain a continuous public involvement program and seek
32 involvement of other government agencies.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.104.110 and 2005 c 319 s 136 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The legislature recognizes that the planning processes
36 described in RCW 81.104.100 provide a recognized framework for guiding

1 high capacity transportation studies. However, the process cannot
2 guarantee appropriate decisions unless key study assumptions are
3 reasonable.

4 (2) To assure appropriate system plan assumptions and to provide
5 for review of system plan results, an expert review panel shall be
6 appointed to provide independent technical review for development of
7 any system plan which:

8 (a) Is to be funded in whole or in part by the imposition of any
9 voter-approved local option funding sources enumerated in RCW
10 81.104.140; and

11 (b) Includes a rail fixed guideway system component or a bus rapid
12 transit component that is planned by a regional transit authority.

13 ~~((+1))~~ (3) The expert review panel shall consist of five to ten
14 members who are recognized experts in relevant fields, such as transit
15 operations, planning, emerging transportation technologies,
16 engineering, finance, law, the environment, geography, economics, and
17 political science.

18 ~~((+2))~~ (4) The expert review panel shall be selected cooperatively
19 by the chairs of the senate and house transportation committees, the
20 secretary of the department of transportation, and the governor to
21 assure a balance of disciplines. In the case of counties adjoining
22 another state or Canadian province the expert review panel membership
23 shall be selected cooperatively with representatives of the adjoining
24 state or Canadian province.

25 ~~((+3))~~ (5) The chair of the expert review panel shall be
26 designated by the appointing authorities.

27 ~~((+4))~~ (6) The expert review panel shall serve without
28 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses according to RCW
29 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Reimbursement shall be paid from within the
30 existing resources of the local authority planning under this chapter.

31 ~~((+5))~~ (7) The panel shall carry out the duties set forth in
32 subsections ~~((+6))~~ (8) and ~~((+7))~~ (9) of this section until the date
33 on which an election is held to consider the high capacity
34 transportation system and financing plans.

35 ~~((+6))~~ (8) The expert panel shall review all reports required in
36 RCW 81.104.100(2) and shall concentrate on service modes and concepts,
37 costs, patronage and financing evaluations.

1 (~~(7)~~) (9) The expert panel shall provide timely reviews and
2 comments on individual reports and study conclusions to the department
3 of transportation, the regional transportation planning organization,
4 the joint regional policy committee, and the submitting lead transit
5 agency. In the case of counties adjoining another state or Canadian
6 province, the expert review panel shall provide its reviews, comments,
7 and conclusions to the representatives of the adjoining state or
8 Canadian province.

9 (~~(8)~~) (10) The local authority planning under this chapter shall
10 contract for consulting services for expert review panels. The amount
11 of consultant support shall be negotiated with each expert review panel
12 by the local authority and shall be paid from within the local
13 authority's existing resources."

14 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes the underlying bill, which limits high capacity transportation system planning to systems that include a rail fixed guideway component or propose to convert or appropriate existing highway capacity, and replaces it with the House companion bill, which limits high capacity transportation system planning to systems that include a rail fixed guideway component or a bus rapid transit component planned by a regional transit authority.

--- END ---