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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2601**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2012 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Eddy, Llias, Ryu, Ladenburg, and Moscoso)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/12.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving public transit through the creation of  
2 transit service overlay zones; amending RCW 47.80.023 and 36.70A.080;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 47.80 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that the  
6 transit service overlay zone describes a concept for subregional  
7 collaborations between municipalities and transit agencies to better  
8 link transit and land use decision making and planning.

9 The legislature further finds that this process is intended to  
10 provide sufficient incentives and remove enough barriers to stimulate  
11 transit supportive development in proximity to a set of core, high  
12 frequency bus transit corridors. The process also helps better  
13 prioritize the allocation of new transit agency service hours, as well  
14 as ensure the reliability and productivity of existing higher capacity  
15 bus transit by engaging land use authorities in local corridor planning  
16 processes.

17 To be eligible for the transit service overlay zone program, a  
18 corridor must meet an agreed upon set of criteria, including a minimum  
19 housing unit density within walking distance to the corridor and

1 frequent all-day, two direction bus service. A transit service overlay  
2 zone corridor must also connect to high density employment/population  
3 centers, as well as to other destinations along the corridor to allow  
4 for other nonwork trips to occur.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.80 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Each regional transportation planning organization may  
8 establish eligibility criteria for cities, counties, and transit  
9 agencies to enact transit service overlay zones. The eligibility  
10 criteria must include:

11 (a) Frequent all-day, two direction bus service or inclusion in a  
12 transit agency's long-range plan for frequent all-day, two direction  
13 bus service;

14 (b) A minimum existing or planned housing unit and employment  
15 density within walking distance to the corridor;

16 (c) A requirement for connecting high density employment and  
17 population centers; and

18 (d) Design criteria applicable to appropriate portions of the  
19 transit service overlay zone that assist with the provision of transit  
20 service.

21 (2) Cities, counties, and transit agencies may establish transit  
22 service overlay zones through an interlocal agreement under chapter  
23 39.34 RCW that meets the eligibility criteria established by the local  
24 regional transportation planning organization, as determined by the  
25 local regional transportation planning organization.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.80.023 and 2009 c 515 s 15 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

28 Each regional transportation planning organization shall have the  
29 following duties:

30 (1) Prepare and periodically update a transportation strategy for  
31 the region. The strategy shall address alternative transportation  
32 modes and transportation demand management measures in regional  
33 corridors and shall recommend preferred transportation policies to  
34 implement adopted growth strategies. The strategy shall serve as a  
35 guide in preparation of the regional transportation plan.

1 (2) Prepare a regional transportation plan as set forth in RCW  
2 47.80.030 that is consistent with countywide planning policies if such  
3 have been adopted pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, with county, city,  
4 and town comprehensive plans, and state transportation plans.

5 (3) Certify by December 31, 1996, that the transportation elements  
6 of comprehensive plans adopted by counties, cities, and towns within  
7 the region reflect the guidelines and principles developed pursuant to  
8 RCW 47.80.026, are consistent with the adopted regional transportation  
9 plan, and, where appropriate, conform with the requirements of RCW  
10 36.70A.070.

11 (4) Where appropriate, certify that countywide planning policies  
12 adopted under RCW 36.70A.210 and the adopted regional transportation  
13 plan are consistent.

14 (5) Develop, in cooperation with the department of transportation,  
15 operators of public transportation services and local governments  
16 within the region, a six-year regional transportation improvement  
17 program which proposes regionally significant transportation projects  
18 and programs and transportation demand management measures. The  
19 regional transportation improvement program shall be based on the  
20 programs, projects, and transportation demand management measures of  
21 regional significance as identified by transit agencies, cities, and  
22 counties pursuant to RCW 35.58.2795, 35.77.010, and 36.81.121,  
23 respectively, and any recommended programs or projects identified by  
24 the agency council on coordinated transportation, as provided in  
25 chapter 47.06B RCW, that advance special needs coordinated  
26 transportation as defined in RCW 47.06B.012. The program shall include  
27 a priority list of projects and programs, project segments and  
28 programs, transportation demand management measures, and a specific  
29 financial plan that demonstrates how the transportation improvement  
30 program can be funded. The program shall be updated at least every two  
31 years for the ensuing six-year period.

32 (6) Include specific opportunities and projects to advance special  
33 needs coordinated transportation, as defined in RCW 47.06B.012, in the  
34 coordinated transit-human services transportation plan, after providing  
35 opportunity for public comment.

36 (7) Designate a lead planning agency to coordinate preparation of  
37 the regional transportation plan and carry out the other  
38 responsibilities of the organization. The lead planning agency may be

1 a regional organization, a component county, city, or town agency, or  
2 the appropriate Washington state department of transportation district  
3 office.

4 (8) Review level of service methodologies used by cities and  
5 counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW to promote a consistent  
6 regional evaluation of transportation facilities and corridors.

7 (9) Work with cities, counties, transit agencies, the department of  
8 transportation, and others to develop level of service standards or  
9 alternative transportation performance measures.

10 (10) Submit to the agency council on coordinated transportation, as  
11 provided in chapter 47.06B RCW, beginning on July 1, 2007, and every  
12 four years thereafter, an updated plan that includes the elements  
13 identified by the council. Each regional transportation planning  
14 organization must submit to the council every two years a prioritized  
15 regional human service and transportation project list.

16 (11) Work with interested cities, counties, transit agencies, the  
17 department of transportation, and others to develop transit service  
18 overlay zones as prescribed in section 2 of this act.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 36.70A.080 and 2011 c 318 s 801 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) A comprehensive plan may include additional elements, items, or  
22 studies dealing with other subjects relating to the physical  
23 development within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to:

- 24 (a) Conservation;
- 25 (b) Solar energy; (~~and~~)
- 26 (c) Recreation; and
- 27 (d) Transit service overlay zones, as prescribed in section 2 of  
28 this act.

29 (2) A comprehensive plan may include, where appropriate, subarea  
30 plans, each of which is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

31 (3)(a) Cities that qualify as a receiving city may adopt a  
32 comprehensive plan element and associated development regulations that  
33 apply within receiving areas under chapter 39.108 RCW.

34 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the terms "receiving city" and  
35 "receiving area" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 39.108.010.

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