
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1842

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Farrell, Hargrove, Fey, Harmsworth, Senn, Wylie, Gregerson, Robinson, Walkinshaw, Zeiger, Fitzgibbon, Moscoso, Tarleton, and Clibborn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving transit agency coordination;
2 amending RCW 35.58.2796 and 47.66.030; adding a new section to
3 chapter 47.66 RCW; creating a new section; providing an expiration
4 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The central Puget Sound is projected to
7 grow considerably, in both population and jobs, over the course of
8 the next several decades. It is thus critical that all its
9 transportation infrastructure be well planned and coordinated,
10 including its transit systems. It is the intent of the legislature to
11 encourage this planning and coordination on the part of central Puget
12 Sound transit systems in order to improve the user experience,
13 increase ridership, and make the most effective use of tax dollars.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.58.2796 and 2011 c 371 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1)(a) The department of transportation shall develop an annual
17 report summarizing the status of public transportation systems in the
18 state for the previous calendar year. By December 1st of each year,
19 the report must be made available to the transportation committees of
20 the legislature and to each municipality, as defined in RCW

1 35.58.272, and to individual members of the municipality's
2 legislative authority.

3 ~~((2))~~ (b) To assist the department with preparation of the
4 report, each municipality shall file a system report by September 1st
5 of each year with the state department of transportation identifying
6 its public transportation services for the previous calendar year and
7 its objectives for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of
8 those services. The system report shall address those items required
9 for each public transportation system in the department's report.

10 ~~((3))~~ (c) The department report shall describe individual
11 public transportation systems, including contracted transportation
12 services and dial-a-ride services, and include a statewide summary of
13 public transportation issues and data. The descriptions shall include
14 the following elements and such other elements as the department
15 deems appropriate after consultation with the municipalities and the
16 transportation committees of the legislature:

17 ~~((a))~~ (i) Equipment and facilities, including vehicle
18 replacement standards;

19 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Services and service standards;

20 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Revenues, expenses, and ending balances, by fund
21 source;

22 ~~((d))~~ (iv) Policy issues and system improvement objectives,
23 including community participation in development of those objectives
24 and how those objectives address statewide transportation priorities;

25 ~~((e))~~ (v) Operating indicators applied to public transportation
26 services, revenues, and expenses. Operating indicators shall include
27 operating cost per passenger trip, operating cost per revenue vehicle
28 service hour, passenger trips per revenue service hour, passenger
29 trips per vehicle service mile, vehicle service hours per employee,
30 and farebox revenue as a percent of operating costs.

31 ~~((4))~~ (d) To the extent that information is available, the
32 department report must include descriptive information on any other
33 modes of public transportation, the impact of public transportation
34 on transportation system performance, and how public transportation
35 helps the state meet the transportation system policy goals described
36 in RCW 47.04.280.

37 (2)(a) The department of transportation shall develop an annual
38 report summarizing the status of public transportation system
39 coordination in and between counties with a population of seven
40 hundred thousand or more that border Puget Sound for the previous

1 calendar year. By December 1st of each year, the report must be made
2 available to the transportation committees of the legislature and to
3 each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, located in a county
4 with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that borders
5 Puget Sound and to individual members of the municipality's
6 legislative authority.

7 (b) To assist the department with preparation of the report
8 required under this subsection, each municipality, as defined in RCW
9 35.58.272, located in a county with a population of seven hundred
10 thousand or more that borders Puget Sound shall file a report by
11 September 1st of each year with the department identifying its
12 coordination efforts in the previous calendar year with other
13 municipalities, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, located in counties with
14 a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget
15 Sound in the following areas:

- 16 (i) Integrating marketing efforts;
17 (ii) Aligning fare structures;
18 (iii) Integrating service planning;
19 (iv) Coordinating long-range planning, including capital projects
20 planning and implementation;
21 (v) Integrating other administrative functions and internal
22 business processes as appropriate; and
23 (vi) Integrating certain customer-focused tools and initiatives.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.66.030 and 2005 c 318 s 4 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1)(a) The department shall establish a regional mobility grant
27 program. The purpose of the grant program is to aid local governments
28 in funding projects such as intercounty connectivity service, park
29 and ride lots, rush hour transit service, and capital projects that
30 improve the connectivity and efficiency of our transportation system.
31 The department shall identify cost-effective projects that reduce
32 delay for people and goods and improve connectivity between counties
33 and regional population centers. The department shall submit a
34 prioritized list of all projects requesting funding to the
35 legislature by December 1st of each year.

36 (b) Once the department has a prioritized list, pursuant to (a)
37 of this subsection and RCW 47.66.040, of all projects requesting
38 funding, the department shall reprioritize the projects in counties
39 with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget

1 Sound based on the same criteria used for the prioritized list as
2 well as the additional criteria of coordination and integration.
3 After this reprioritization, the department shall integrate these
4 reprioritized projects with the prioritized projects from all other
5 counties while ensuring that the prioritized projects from all other
6 counties do not move to a lower relative position on this integrated
7 list or, if a prioritized project from all other counties is in the
8 funded portion of the prioritized list, out of the funded portion of
9 this integrated list.

10 (2) The department may establish an advisory committee to carry
11 out the mandates of this chapter.

12 (3) The department must report annually to the transportation
13 committees of the legislature on the status of any grants projects
14 funded by the program created under this section.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 47.66
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The transit coordination grant program is created in the
18 department. The purpose of the transit coordination grant program is
19 to encourage joint planning and coordination on the part of central
20 Puget Sound transit systems in order to improve the user experience,
21 increase ridership, and make the most effective use of tax dollars.
22 The department shall oversee, manage, score, select, and evaluate
23 transit coordination grant program project applications, and shall
24 select transit coordination grant recipients annually. A transit
25 agency located in a county or counties with a population of seven
26 hundred thousand or more that border Puget Sound is eligible to apply
27 to the department for transit coordination grants.

28 (2) Projects eligible for transit coordination grants include,
29 but are not limited to, projects that:

30 (a) Integrate marketing efforts;

31 (b) Align fare structures;

32 (c) Integrate service planning;

33 (d) Coordinate long-range planning, including capital projects
34 planning and implementation;

35 (e) Integrate other administrative functions and internal
36 business processes as appropriate; and

37 (f) Integrate certain customer-focused tools and initiatives.

1 (3) Transit coordination grants must, at a minimum, be proposed
2 jointly by two or more eligible transit agencies and must include a
3 description of the:

4 (a) Issue or problem to be addressed;

5 (b) Specific solution and measurable outcomes;

6 (c) Benefits such as cost savings, travel time improvements,
7 improved coordination, and improved customer experience; and

8 (d) Performance measurements and an evaluation plan that includes
9 the identification of milestones towards successful completion of the
10 project.

11 (4) Transit coordination grant applications must include
12 measurable outcomes for the project including, but not limited to,
13 the following:

14 (a) Impacts on service, such as increased service, improved
15 service delivery, and improved transfers and coordination across
16 transit service;

17 (b) Impacts on customer service, such as: Improved reliability;
18 improved outreach and coordination with customers, employers, and
19 communities; improvements in customer service functions, such as
20 customer response time and web-based and other communications; and

21 (c) Impacts on administration, such as improved marketing and
22 outreach efforts, integrated customer-focused tools, and improved
23 cross-agency communications.

24 (5) Transit coordination grant applications must also include:

25 (a) Project budget and cost details; and

26 (b) A commitment and description of local matching funding of at
27 least ten percent of the project cost.

28 (6) Upon completion of the project, transit coordination grant
29 recipients must provide a report to the department that includes an
30 overview of the project, how the grant funds were spent, and the
31 extent to which the identified project outcomes were met. In
32 addition, such reports must include a description of best practices
33 that could be transferred to other transit agencies faced with
34 similar issues to those addressed by the transit coordination grant
35 recipient. The department must report annually to the transportation
36 committees of the legislature on the transit coordination grants that
37 were awarded, and the report must include data to determine if
38 completed transit coordination grant projects produced the
39 anticipated outcomes included in the grant applications.

40 (7) This section expires July 1, 2020.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
4 effect immediately.

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