

SHB 1994 - H AMD 266

By Representative Wylie

ADOPTED 03/12/2019

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington's
4 transportation needs are increasing as both a surge in trade and
5 population create demand on the system. Large transportation projects
6 that provide improvements in accessibility, freight mobility, and
7 safety, as well as maximize economic development, are critical to
8 Washington's future. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize
9 transportation projects of statewide significance, and to expedite
10 their completion through the establishment of a formal process of
11 coordination.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) A transportation project of statewide significance means a
15 project that will:

16 (a) Improve accessibility for a significant number of Washington
17 residents;

18 (b) Alleviate congestion and improve the reliability of travel
19 times for Washington residents and other users of the transportation
20 system;

21 (c) Improve the movement of freight through the corridor;

22 (d) Provide safety improvements and contribute to a reduction in
23 injuries and fatalities;

24 (e) Maximize opportunities for economic development in the region
25 and the state;

26 (f) Make improvement to transit, pedestrian, and bike access; and

27 (g) Serve as a critical route for both national and state
28 defense.

29 (2)(a) In order to qualify as a transportation project of
30 statewide significance, the reasonable cost estimate to construct the
31 project must be at least one billion dollars. Similarly, if a project

1 is to be constructed in phases, in order to qualify as a
2 transportation project of statewide significance, the total
3 reasonable cost estimate to construct all the phases must be at least
4 one billion dollars. For purposes of this subsection, "cost estimate
5 to construct" includes costs associated with design, preliminary
6 engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

7 (b) In order to qualify as a transportation project of statewide
8 significance, the project must also contain a bridge that connects
9 two states that has a reasonable cost estimate to construct of at
10 least five hundred million dollars and would benefit from an
11 expedited permitting process due to preexisting permits.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) The department shall:

15 (a) Develop an application for designation of transportation
16 projects as transportation projects of statewide significance. The
17 application must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the
18 legislative authority of at least one jurisdiction that will have the
19 proposed transportation project of statewide significance within its
20 boundaries. No designation of a project as a transportation project
21 of statewide significance shall be made without the letter of
22 approval, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The
23 letter of approval must state that the jurisdiction joins in the
24 request for the designation of the transportation project as one of
25 statewide significance and has or will hire the professional staff
26 that will be required to expedite the processes necessary to the
27 completion of a transportation project of statewide significance. The
28 transportation project proponents may provide the funding necessary
29 for the jurisdiction to hire the professional staff that will be
30 required to so expedite. The application must contain information
31 regarding the location of the project, how the project meets the
32 criteria specified in section 2 of this act, and other information
33 required by the department; and

34 (b) Designate a transportation project as a transportation
35 project of statewide significance if the department determines, after
36 review of the application under criteria adopted by rule, the
37 transportation project will meet the criteria listed in section 2 (1)
38 and (2) of this act.

1 (2) Any project designated by the legislature and codified in
2 this chapter is not subject to the application requirements set out
3 in subsection (1) of this section. However, the project is subject to
4 the coordination process in subsection (3) of this section.

5 (3) The department shall assign a project facilitator or
6 coordinator to each transportation project of statewide significance
7 to:

8 (a) Assemble a team of state and local government and private
9 officials to help meet the planning, permitting, and development
10 needs of each project. The team must include those responsible for
11 planning, permitting, and licensing, infrastructure development,
12 workforce development services, transportation services, and the
13 provision of utilities; and

14 (b) Work with each team member to expedite their actions in
15 furtherance of the project and coordinate any cross border
16 communications, if applicable."

17 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Limits transportation projects of statewide significance to projects that contain a bridge that connects two states that has a reasonable cost estimate to construct of at least five hundred million dollars and would benefit from an expedited permitting process due to preexisting permits.

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