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HOUSE BILL 2245

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Barkis, Ramos, Goehner, and Boehnke

Prefiled 12/18/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to roundabouts; amending RCW 46.61.135 and  
2 46.61.140; and reenacting and amending RCW 47.04.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.04.010 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 10 s 3 are each  
5 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 The following words and phrases, wherever used in this title,  
7 shall have the meaning as in this section ascribed to them, unless  
8 where used the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary  
9 or unless otherwise defined in the chapter of which they are a part:

10 (1) "Alley." A highway within the ordinary meaning of alley not  
11 designated for general travel and primarily used as a means of access  
12 to the rear of residences and business establishments;

13 (2) "Arterial highway." Every highway, as herein defined, or  
14 portion thereof designated as such by proper authority;

15 (3) "Business district." The territory contiguous to and  
16 including a highway, as herein defined, when within any six hundred  
17 feet along such highway there are buildings in use for business or  
18 industrial purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, or  
19 office buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which  
20 occupy at least three hundred feet of frontage on one side or three  
21 hundred feet collectively on both sides of the highway;

1 (4) "Center line." The line, marked or unmarked parallel to and  
2 equidistant from the sides of a two-way traffic roadway of a highway  
3 except where otherwise indicated by painted lines or markers;

4 (5) "Center of intersection." The point of intersection of the  
5 center lines of the roadways of intersecting highways;

6 (6) "City street." Every highway as herein defined, or part  
7 thereof located within the limits of incorporated cities and towns,  
8 except alleys;

9 (7) "Combination of vehicles." Every combination of motor vehicle  
10 and motor vehicle, motor vehicle and trailer, or motor vehicle and  
11 semitrailer;

12 (8) "Commercial vehicle." Any vehicle the principal use of which  
13 is the transportation of commodities, merchandise, produce, freight,  
14 animals, or passengers for hire;

15 (9) "County road." Every highway as herein defined, or part  
16 thereof, outside the limits of incorporated cities and towns and  
17 which has not been designated as a state highway, or branch thereof;

18 (10) "Crosswalk." The portion of the roadway between the  
19 intersection area and a prolongation or connection of the farthest  
20 sidewalk line or in the event there are no sidewalks then between the  
21 intersection area and a line ten feet therefrom, except as modified  
22 by a marked crosswalk;

23 (11) "Highway." Every way, lane, road, street, boulevard, and  
24 every way or place in the state of Washington open as a matter of  
25 right to public vehicular travel both inside and outside the limits  
26 of incorporated cities and towns;

27 (12) "Intersection area." (a) The area embraced within the  
28 prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none,  
29 then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two or more  
30 highways which join one another at, or approximately at, right  
31 angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different  
32 highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict;

33 (b) Where a highway includes two roadways thirty feet or more  
34 apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by  
35 an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection.  
36 In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways  
37 thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of  
38 such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection;

39 (c) The junction of an alley with a street or highway shall not  
40 constitute an intersection;

1 (13) "Intersection control area." The intersection area as herein  
2 defined, together with such modification of the adjacent roadway area  
3 as results from the arc or curb corners and together with any marked  
4 or unmarked crosswalks adjacent to the intersection;

5 (14) "Laned highway." A highway the roadway of which is divided  
6 into clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic;

7 (15) "Local authorities." Every county, municipal, or other local  
8 public board or body having authority to adopt local police  
9 regulations under the Constitution and laws of this state;

10 (16) "Marked crosswalk." Any portion of a roadway distinctly  
11 indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the  
12 surface thereof;

13 (17) "Metal tire." Every tire, the bearing surface of which in  
14 contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard,  
15 nonresilient material;

16 (18) "Motor truck." Any motor vehicle, as herein defined,  
17 designed or used for the transportation of commodities, merchandise,  
18 produce, freight, or animals;

19 (19) "Motor vehicle." Every vehicle, as herein defined, which is  
20 in itself a self-propelled unit;

21 (20) "Multiple lane highway." Any highway the roadway of which is  
22 of sufficient width to reasonably accommodate two or more separate  
23 lanes of vehicular traffic in the same direction, each lane of which  
24 shall be not less than the maximum legal vehicle width, and whether  
25 or not such lanes are marked;

26 (21) "Operator." Every person who drives or is in actual physical  
27 control of a vehicle as herein defined;

28 (22) "Peace officer." Any officer authorized by law to execute  
29 criminal process or to make arrests for the violation of the statutes  
30 generally or of any particular statute or statutes relative to the  
31 highways of this state;

32 (23) "Pedestrian." Any person afoot or who is using a wheelchair,  
33 power wheelchair as defined in RCW 46.04.415, or a means of  
34 conveyance propelled by human power other than a bicycle;

35 (24) "Person." Every natural person, firm, copartnership,  
36 corporation, association, or organization;

37 (25) "Personal wireless service." Any federally licensed personal  
38 wireless service;

39 (26) "Personal wireless service facilities." Unstaffed facilities  
40 that are used for the transmission or reception, or both, of personal

1 wireless services including, but not necessarily limited to, antenna  
2 arrays, transmission cables, equipment shelters, and support  
3 structures;

4 (27) "Pneumatic tires." Every tire of rubber or other resilient  
5 material designed to be inflated with compressed air to support the  
6 load thereon;

7 (28) "Private road or driveway." Every way or place in private  
8 ownership and used for travel of vehicles by the owner or those  
9 having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other  
10 persons;

11 (29) "Railroad." A carrier of persons or property upon vehicles,  
12 other than streetcars, operated upon stationary rails, the route of  
13 which is principally outside incorporated cities and towns;

14 (30) "Railroad sign or signal." Any sign, signal, or device  
15 erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad  
16 and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the  
17 approach of a railroad train;

18 (31) "Residence district." The territory contiguous to and  
19 including the highway, as herein defined, not comprising a business  
20 district, as herein defined, when the property on such highway for a  
21 continuous distance of three hundred feet or more on either side  
22 thereof is in the main improved with residences or residences and  
23 buildings in use for business;

24 (32) "Roadway." The paved, improved, or proper driving portion of  
25 a highway designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel;

26 (33) "Roundabout." A circular intersection consisting of one or  
27 more lanes where vehicles travel counterclockwise.

28 (34) "Safety zone." The area or space officially set apart within  
29 a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is protected  
30 or is marked or indicated by painted marks, signs, buttons,  
31 standards, or otherwise so as to be plainly discernible;

32 ~~((34))~~ (35) "Sidewalk." That property between the curb lines or  
33 the lateral lines of a roadway, as herein defined, and the adjacent  
34 property, set aside and intended for the use of pedestrians or such  
35 portion of private property parallel and in proximity to a highway  
36 and dedicated to use by pedestrians;

37 ~~((35))~~ (36) "Solid tire." Every tire of rubber or other  
38 resilient material which does not depend upon inflation with  
39 compressed air for the support of the load thereon;

1        ~~((36))~~ (37) "State highway." Every highway as herein defined,  
2 or part thereof, which has been designated as a state highway, or  
3 branch thereof, by legislative enactment;

4        ~~((37))~~ (38) "Streetcar." A vehicle other than a train, as  
5 herein defined, for the transporting of persons or property and  
6 operated upon stationary rails principally within incorporated cities  
7 and towns;

8        ~~((38))~~ (39) "Structurally deficient." A state bridge that is  
9 classified as in poor condition under the state bridge condition  
10 rating system and is reported by the state to the national bridge  
11 inventory as having a deck, superstructure, or substructure rating of  
12 four or below. Structurally deficient bridges are characterized by  
13 deteriorated conditions of significant bridge elements and  
14 potentially reduced load carrying capacity. Bridges deemed  
15 structurally deficient typically require significant maintenance and  
16 repair to remain in service, and require major rehabilitation or  
17 replacement to address the underlying deficiency;

18        ~~((39))~~ (40) "Traffic." Pedestrians, ridden or herded animals,  
19 vehicles, streetcars, and other conveyances either singly or together  
20 while using any highways for purposes of travel;

21        ~~((40))~~ (41) "Traffic control signal." Any traffic device, as  
22 herein defined, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically  
23 operated, by which traffic alternately is directed to stop or proceed  
24 or otherwise controlled;

25        ~~((41))~~ (42) "Traffic devices." All signs, signals, markings,  
26 and devices not inconsistent with this title placed or erected by  
27 authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the  
28 purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic;

29        ~~((42))~~ (43) "Train." A vehicle propelled by steam, electricity,  
30 or other motive power with or without cars coupled thereto, operated  
31 upon stationary rails, except streetcars;

32        ~~((43))~~ (44) "Vehicle." Every device capable of being moved upon  
33 a highway and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may  
34 be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting power wheelchairs,  
35 as defined in RCW 46.04.415, or devices moved by human or animal  
36 power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

37        Words and phrases used herein in the past, present, or future  
38 tense shall include the past, present, and future tenses; words and  
39 phrases used herein in the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender  
40 shall include the masculine, feminine, and neuter genders; and words

1 and phrases used herein in the singular or plural shall include the  
2 singular and plural; unless the context thereof shall indicate to the  
3 contrary.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.135 and 1984 c 7 s 64 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The state department of transportation and the local  
7 authorities with respect to highways under their respective  
8 jurisdictions may designate any highway, roadway, part of a roadway,  
9 or specific lanes upon which vehicular traffic shall proceed in one  
10 direction at all or such times as shall be indicated by official  
11 traffic control devices.

12 (2) Upon a roadway so designated for one-way traffic, a vehicle  
13 shall be driven only in the direction designated at all or such times  
14 as shall be indicated by official traffic control devices.

15 (3) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be  
16 driven only to the right of such island.

17 (4) If two vehicles or combinations of vehicles where one or both  
18 of the vehicles approaching have a total length in excess of forty  
19 feet or a total width in excess of ten feet approach or drive through  
20 a roundabout at approximately the same time or so closely as to  
21 constitute a hazard of collision, the operator of the vehicle or  
22 combination of vehicles on the right must yield the right-of-way to  
23 the vehicle or combination of vehicles on the left and, if necessary,  
24 must reduce speed or stop in order to so yield.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.140 and 1965 ex.s. c 155 s 23 are each amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly  
28 marked lanes for traffic the following rules in addition to all  
29 others consistent herewith shall apply:

30 (1) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely  
31 within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane until the  
32 driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with  
33 safety.

34 (2) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes and provides  
35 for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall not be driven in the  
36 center lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle  
37 traveling in the same direction when such center lane is clear of  
38 traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for making a left

1 turn or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively  
2 to traffic moving in the same direction that the vehicle is  
3 proceeding and such allocation is designated by official traffic-  
4 control devices.

5 (3) Official traffic-control devices may be erected directing  
6 slow moving or other specified traffic to use a designated lane or  
7 designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular  
8 direction regardless of the center of the roadway and drivers of  
9 vehicles shall obey the directions of every such device.

10 (4) Official traffic-control devices may be installed prohibiting  
11 the changing of lanes on sections of roadway and drivers of vehicles  
12 shall obey the directions of every such device.

13 (5) Pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the operator of a  
14 vehicle or combination of vehicles meeting the requirements of RCW  
15 46.04.530 and with a total length in excess of forty feet or a total  
16 width exceeding ten feet may, with due regard for all other traffic,  
17 deviate from the lane in which the operator is driving to the extent  
18 necessary to approach and drive through a roundabout.

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