
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5595

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Alvarado, Liias, Frame, Nobles, Pedersen, Saldaña, and Shewmake

Read first time 01/30/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing shared streets; amending RCW
2 46.61.250, 46.61.415, 46.61.110, 46.61.240, and 46.61.770; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A local authority may designate any nonarterial highway that
8 is not a state highway to be a shared street under this section, if
9 the local authority has developed procedures for establishing shared
10 streets.

11 (2) Vehicular traffic traveling along a shared street shall yield
12 the right-of-way to any pedestrian, bicyclist, or operator of a
13 micromobility device on the shared street.

14 (3) A bicyclist or operator of a micromobility device shall yield
15 the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a shared street.

16 (4) Any local authority that designates a nonarterial highway to
17 be a shared street as provided by this section must post an annual
18 report on the local authority's website of the number of traffic
19 accidents, including those that involve a pedestrian, bicyclist, or
20 operator of a micromobility device, that occurred on the designated
21 shared street. The report must also include the number of speeding

1 violations and driving under the influence violations that occurred
2 on the designated shared street.

3 (5) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Micromobility device" means personal or shared nonmotorized
5 scooters, "motorized foot scooters" as defined in RCW 46.04.336, and
6 "electric personal assistive mobility devices" (EPAMD) as defined in
7 RCW 46.04.1695; and

8 (b) "Shared street" means a city street designated by placement
9 of official traffic control devices where pedestrians, bicyclists,
10 and vehicular traffic share a portion or all of the same street.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.250 and 2022 c 235 s 3 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) Where sidewalks are provided and are accessible, it is
14 unlawful for any pedestrian to walk or otherwise move along and upon
15 an adjacent roadway. Where sidewalks are provided but wheelchair
16 access is not available, persons with disabilities who require such
17 access may walk or otherwise move along and upon an adjacent roadway
18 until they reach an access point in the sidewalk.

19 (2) Where sidewalks are not provided or are inaccessible, a
20 pedestrian walking or otherwise moving along and upon a highway, and
21 any personal delivery device moving along and upon a highway, shall:

22 (a) When shoulders are provided and are accessible, walk or move
23 on the shoulder of the roadway as far as is practicable from the edge
24 of the roadway, facing traffic when a shoulder is available in this
25 direction; or

26 (b) When shoulders are not provided or are inaccessible, walk or
27 move as near as is practicable to the outside edge of the roadway
28 facing traffic, and when practicable, move clear of the roadway upon
29 meeting an oncoming vehicle.

30 (3) A pedestrian traveling to the nearest emergency reporting
31 device on a one-way roadway of a controlled access highway is not
32 required to travel facing traffic as otherwise required by subsection
33 (2) of this section.

34 (4) When walking or otherwise moving along and upon an adjacent
35 roadway, a pedestrian shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with
36 any vehicle upon the roadway.

37 (5) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply when the
38 roadway is duly closed to vehicular traffic by placement of official

1 traffic control devices for the sole purposes of pedestrian and
2 bicyclist use of the roadway.

3 (6) Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of this section do not apply on
4 a shared street as defined in section 1 of this act.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.415 and 2022 c 235 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Whenever local authorities in their respective jurisdictions
8 determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation
9 that the maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400 or 46.61.440 is
10 greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions
11 found to exist upon a highway or part of a highway, the local
12 authority may determine and declare a reasonable and safe maximum
13 limit thereon which

14 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

15 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than 60 miles per hour;

16 or

17 (c) Decreases the limit but not to less than 20 miles per hour.

18 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall
19 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper
20 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable
21 and safe maximum limit thereon, which may be greater or less than the
22 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed
23 60 miles per hour.

24 (3)(a) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may
25 establish a maximum speed limit of 20 miles per hour on a nonarterial
26 highway or part of a nonarterial highway or a maximum speed limit of
27 10 miles per hour on a shared street as defined in section 1 of this
28 act.

29 (b) A speed limit established under this subsection by a local
30 authority does not need to be determined on the basis of an
31 engineering and traffic investigation if the local authority has
32 developed procedures regarding establishing a maximum speed limit
33 under this subsection. Any speed limit established under this
34 subsection may be canceled within one year of its establishment, and
35 the previous speed limit reestablished, without an engineering and
36 traffic investigation. This subsection does not otherwise affect the
37 requirement that local authorities conduct an engineering and traffic
38 investigation to determine whether to increase speed limits.

1 (c) When establishing speed limits under this subsection, local
2 authorities shall consult the manual on uniform traffic control
3 devices as adopted by the Washington state department of
4 transportation.

5 (4) The secretary of transportation is authorized to establish
6 speed limits on county roads and city and town streets as shall be
7 necessary to conform with any federal requirements, which are a
8 prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds to the
9 state.

10 (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore authorized
11 shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are
12 erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at
13 all times or at such times as are indicated upon such signs; and
14 differing limits may be established for different times of day,
15 different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other
16 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted
17 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

18 (6) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within
19 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be
20 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of
21 transportation.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.61.110 and 2023 c 471 s 4 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of
25 vehicles proceeding in the same direction:

26 (1)(a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking other traffic
27 proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of it at a
28 safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the
29 roadway until safely clear of the overtaken traffic.

30 (b)(i) When the vehicle being overtaken is a motorcycle, motor-
31 driven cycle, or moped, a driver of a motor vehicle found to be in
32 violation of (a) of this subsection must be assessed an additional
33 fine equal to the base penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110(3). This
34 fine may not be waived, reduced, or suspended, unless the court finds
35 the offender to be indigent, and is not subject to the additional
36 fees and assessments that the base penalty for this violation is
37 subject to under RCW 2.68.040, 3.62.090, and 46.63.110.

1 (ii) The additional fine imposed under (b)(i) of this subsection
2 must be deposited into the vulnerable roadway user education account
3 created in RCW 46.61.145.

4 (2)(a) The driver of a vehicle approaching an individual who is
5 traveling as a pedestrian or on a bicycle, riding an animal, or using
6 a farm tractor or implement of husbandry without an enclosed shell,
7 and who is traveling in the right lane of a roadway or on the right-
8 hand shoulder or bicycle lane of the roadway, shall:

9 (i) On a roadway with two lanes or more for traffic moving in the
10 direction of travel, before passing and until safely clear of the
11 individual, move completely into a lane to the left of the right lane
12 when it is safe to do so;

13 (ii) On a roadway with only one lane for traffic moving in the
14 direction of travel:

15 (A) When there is sufficient room to the left of the individual
16 in the lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel, before
17 passing and until safely clear of the individual:

18 (I) Reduce speed to a safe speed for passing relative to the
19 speed of the individual; and

20 (II) Pass at a safe distance, where practicable of at least three
21 feet, to clearly avoid coming into contact with the individual or the
22 individual's vehicle or animal; or

23 (B) When there is insufficient room to the left of the individual
24 in the lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel to comply
25 with (a)(ii)(A) of this subsection, before passing and until safely
26 clear of the individual, move completely into the lane for traffic
27 moving in the opposite direction when it is safe to do so and in
28 compliance with RCW 46.61.120 and 46.61.125.

29 (b) A driver of a motor vehicle found to be in violation of this
30 subsection (2) must be assessed an additional fine equal to the base
31 penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110(3). This fine may not be waived,
32 reduced, or suspended, unless the court finds the offender to be
33 indigent, and is not subject to the additional fees and assessments
34 that the base penalty for this violation is subject to under RCW
35 2.68.040, 3.62.090, and 46.63.110.

36 (c) The additional fine imposed under (b) of this subsection must
37 be deposited into the vulnerable roadway user education account
38 created in RCW 46.61.145.

39 (d) For the purposes of this section, "vulnerable user of a
40 public way" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 46.61.5259.

1 (e) This subsection (2) does not apply on a shared street as
2 defined in section 1 of this act.

3 (3) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted,
4 overtaken traffic shall give way to the right in favor of an
5 overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase speed
6 until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

7 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.61.240 and 2019 c 214 s 13 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Every pedestrian or personal delivery device crossing a
10 roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within
11 an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way
12 to all vehicles upon the roadway.

13 (2) Where curb ramps exist at or adjacent to intersections or at
14 marked crosswalks in other locations, persons with disabilities or
15 personal delivery devices may enter the roadway from the curb ramps
16 and cross the roadway within or as closely as practicable to the
17 crosswalk. All other pedestrian rights and duties as defined
18 elsewhere in this chapter remain applicable.

19 (3) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a
20 pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided
21 shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

22 (4) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control
23 signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place
24 except in a marked crosswalk.

25 (5) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a
26 roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official
27 traffic-control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally,
28 pedestrians and personal delivery devices shall cross only in
29 accordance with the official traffic-control devices pertaining to
30 such crossing movements.

31 (6) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a
32 roadway at an unmarked crosswalk where an official sign prohibits
33 such crossing.

34 (7) This section does not apply on a shared street as defined in
35 section 1 of this act.

36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.61.770 and 2019 c 403 s 10 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a rate of
2 speed less than the normal flow of traffic at the particular time and
3 place shall ride as near to the right side of the right through lane
4 as is safe except:

5 (a) While preparing to make or while making turning movements at
6 an intersection or into a private road or driveway;

7 (b) When approaching an intersection where right turns are
8 permitted and there is a dedicated right turn lane, in which case a
9 person may operate a bicycle in this lane even if the operator does
10 not intend to turn right;

11 (c) While overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle
12 proceeding in the same direction; and

13 (d) When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions
14 including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or
15 moving vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, animals, and surface
16 hazards.

17 (2) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway or highway other
18 than a limited access highway, which roadway or highway carries
19 traffic in one direction only and has two or more marked traffic
20 lanes, may ride as near to the left side of the left through lane as
21 is safe.

22 (3) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway may use the
23 shoulder of the roadway or any specially designated bicycle lane.

24 (4) When the operator of a bicycle is using the travel lane of a
25 roadway with only one lane for traffic moving in the direction of
26 travel and it is wide enough for a bicyclist and a vehicle to travel
27 safely side-by-side within it, the bicycle operator shall operate far
28 enough to the right to facilitate the movement of an overtaking
29 vehicle unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so or unless the
30 bicyclist is preparing to make a turning movement or while making a
31 turning movement.

32 (5) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more
33 than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for
34 the exclusive use of bicycles.

35 (6) This section does not apply on a shared street as defined in
36 section 1 of this act.

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