

Chapter 47.24 RCW
CITY STREETS AS PART OF STATE HIGHWAYS

Sections

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City streets
parkways, boulevards, generally: Title 35 RCW.
sidewalks, etc.: Chapters 35.68 through 35.79 RCW.

Design standards committee for city streets: Chapter 35.78 RCW.

Off-street parking
cities: Chapter 35.86 RCW.
towns: RCW 35.27.550 through 35.27.590.

Platted streets as public highways: RCW 58.08.035, 58.08.050.

Speed limits in cities: RCW 46.61.415, 46.61.430, 46.61.440.

Viaducts, bridges, elevated roadways, tunnels, etc., in cities:
Chapter 35.85 RCW.

RCW 47.24.010 Designation—Construction, maintenance—Return to city or town. The department of transportation shall determine what streets, together with bridges thereon and wharves necessary for use for ferriage of motor vehicle traffic in connection with such streets, if any, in any incorporated cities and towns shall form a part of the route of state highways and between the first and fifteenth days of July of any year the department shall identify by brief description, the streets, together with the bridges thereon and wharves, if any, in such city or town which are designated as forming a part of the route of any state highway; and all such streets, including curbs and gutters and street intersections and such bridges and wharves, shall thereafter be a part of the state highway system and as such shall be constructed and maintained by the department from any state funds available therefor: PROVIDED, That the responsibility for the construction and maintenance of any such street together with its appurtenances may be returned to a city or a town upon certification by the department to the clerk of any city or town that such street, or portion thereof, is no longer required as a part of the state highway system: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such certification that a street, or portion thereof, is no longer required as a part of the state highway system shall be made between the first and fifteenth of July following the determination by the department that such street or portion thereof is no longer required as a part of the state highway system, but this shall not prevent the department and any city or town from entering into an agreement that a city or town will accept responsibility for such a street or portion thereof at some time other

than between the first and fifteenth of July of any year. [2006 c 334 s 42; 1998 c 245 s 97; 1979 ex.s. c 86 s 2; 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 57; 1973 c 95 s 3; 1961 c 13 s 47.24.010. Prior: 1959 c 160 s 1; 1957 c 83 s 2; 1955 c 179 s 2; 1949 c 220 s 5, part; 1945 c 250 s 1, part; 1943 c 82 s 10, part; 1937 c 187 s 61, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 6450-61, part.]

Effective date—2006 c 334: See note following RCW 47.01.051.

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 86: See note following RCW 13.24.040.

RCW 47.24.020 Jurisdiction, control—Exception. The jurisdiction, control, and duty of the state and city or town with respect to such streets is as follows:

(1) The department has no authority to change or establish any grade of any such street without approval of the governing body of such city or town, except with respect to limited access facilities established by the commission;

(2) The city or town shall exercise full responsibility for and control over any such street beyond the curbs and if no curb is installed, beyond that portion of the highway used for highway purposes. However, within incorporated cities and towns the title to a state limited access highway vests in the state, and, notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department shall exercise full jurisdiction, responsibility, and control to and over such facility as provided in chapter 47.52 RCW;

(3) The department has authority to prohibit the suspension of signs, banners, or decorations above the portion of such street between the curbs or portion used for highway purposes up to a vertical height of 20 feet above the surface of the roadway;

(4) The city or town shall at its own expense maintain all underground facilities in such streets, and has the right to construct such additional underground facilities as may be necessary in such streets. However, pavement trenching and restoration performed as part of installation of such facilities must meet or exceed requirements established by the department;

(5) The city or town has the right to grant the privilege to open the surface of any such street, but all damage occasioned thereby shall promptly be repaired either by the city or town itself or at its direction. Pavement trenching and restoration performed under a privilege granted by the city under this subsection must meet or exceed requirements established by the department;

(6) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (17) of this section, the city or town at its own expense shall provide street illumination and shall clean all such streets, including storm sewer inlets and catch basins, and remove all snow, except that the state shall when necessary plow the snow on the roadway. In cities and towns having a population of 27,500 or less according to the latest determination of population by the office of financial management, the state, when necessary for public safety, shall assume, at its expense, responsibility for the stability of the slopes of cuts and fills and the embankments within the right-of-way to protect the roadway itself. When the population of a city or town first exceeds 27,500 according to the determination of population by the office of financial management, the city or town shall have three years from the date of

the determination to plan for additional staffing, budgetary, and equipment requirements before being required to assume the responsibilities under this subsection. The state shall install, maintain, and operate all illuminating facilities on any limited access facility, together with its interchanges, located within the corporate limits of any city or town, and shall assume and pay the costs of all such installation, maintenance, and operation incurred after November 1, 1954;

(7) The department has the right to use all storm sewers on such highways without cost; and if new storm sewer facilities are necessary in construction of new streets by the department, the cost of the facilities shall be borne by the state and/or city as may be mutually agreed upon between the department and the governing body of the city or town;

(8) Cities and towns have exclusive right to grant franchises not in conflict with state laws and rules, over, beneath, and upon such streets, but the department is authorized to enforce in an action brought in the name of the state any condition of any franchise which a city or town has granted on such street. No franchise for transportation of passengers in motor vehicles may be granted on such streets without the approval of the department, but the department shall not refuse to approve such franchise unless another street conveniently located and of strength of construction to sustain travel of such vehicles is accessible;

(9) Every franchise or permit granted any person by a city or town for use of any portion of such street by a public utility must require the grantee or permittee to restore, repair, and replace any portion of the street damaged or injured by it to conditions that meet or exceed requirements established by the department;

(10) The city or town has the right to issue overload or overwidth permits for vehicles to operate on such streets or roads subject to regulations printed and distributed to the cities and towns by the department;

(11) Cities and towns shall regulate and enforce all traffic and parking restrictions on such streets, but all regulations adopted by a city or town relating to speed, parking, and traffic control devices on such streets not identical to state law relating thereto are subject to the approval of the department before becoming effective. All regulations pertaining to speed, parking, and traffic control devices relating to such streets heretofore adopted by a city or town not identical with state laws shall become null and void unless approved by the department heretofore or within one year after March 21, 1963;

(12) The department shall erect, control, and maintain at state expense all route markers and directional signs, except street signs, on such streets;

(13) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (17) of this section, the department shall install, operate, maintain, and control at state expense all traffic control signals, signs, and traffic control devices for the purpose of regulating both pedestrian and motor vehicular traffic on, entering upon, or leaving state highways in cities and towns having a population of 27,500 or less according to the latest determination of population by the office of financial management. Such cities and towns may submit to the department a plan for traffic control signals, signs, and traffic control devices desired by them, indicating the location, nature of installation, or type thereof, or a proposed amendment to such an existing plan or

installation, and the department shall consult with the cities or towns concerning the plan before installing such signals, signs, or devices. Cities and towns having a population in excess of 27,500 according to the latest determination of population by the office of financial management shall install, maintain, operate, and control such signals, signs, and devices at their own expense, subject to approval of the department for the installation and type only. When the population of a city or town first exceeds 27,500 according to the determination of population by the office of financial management, the city or town shall have three years from the date of the determination to plan for additional staffing, budgetary, and equipment requirements before being required to assume the responsibilities under this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, striping, lane marking, and channelization are considered traffic control devices;

(14) All revenue from parking meters placed on such streets belongs to the city or town;

(15) Rights-of-way for such streets shall be acquired by either the city or town or by the state as shall be mutually agreed upon. Costs of acquiring rights-of-way may be at the sole expense of the state or at the expense of the city or town or at the expense of the state and the city or town as may be mutually agreed upon. Title to all such rights-of-way so acquired shall vest in the city or town: PROVIDED, That no vacation, sale, rental, or any other nontransportation use of any unused portion of any such street may be made by the city or town without the prior written approval of the department; and all revenue derived from sale, vacation, rental, or any nontransportation use of such rights-of-way shall be shared by the city or town and the state in the same proportion as the purchase costs were shared;

(16) If any city or town fails to perform any of its obligations as set forth in this section or in any cooperative agreement entered into with the department for the maintenance of a city or town street forming part of the route of a state highway, the department may notify the mayor of the city or town to perform the necessary maintenance within 30 days. If the city or town within the 30 days fails to perform the maintenance or fails to authorize the department to perform the maintenance as provided by RCW 47.24.050, the department may perform the maintenance, the cost of which is to be deducted from any sums in the motor vehicle fund credited or to be credited to the city or town;

(17) The population thresholds identified in subsections (6) and (13) of this section shall be increased as follows:

(a) Thirty thousand on July 1, 2023;

(b) Thirty-two thousand five hundred on July 1, 2025, for cities or towns having a population of 30,000 or less on January 1, 2025; and

(c) Thirty-five thousand on July 1, 2030. [2025 c 417 s 1305; 2018 c 100 s 1; 2007 c 84 s 1; 2001 c 201 s 8; 1993 c 126 s 1; 1991 c 342 s 52; 1987 c 68 s 1; 1984 c 7 s 150; 1977 ex.s. c 78 s 7; 1967 c 115 s 1; 1963 c 150 s 1; 1961 c 13 s 47.24.020. Prior: 1957 c 83 s 3; 1955 c 179 s 3; 1953 c 193 s 1; 1949 c 220 s 5, part; 1945 c 250 s 1, part; 1943 c 82 s 10, part; 1937 c 187 s 61, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 6450-61, part.]

Effective date—2025 c 417 ss 101-103, 406, 701-709, 808-814, 1102, 1103, and 1305: See note following RCW 82.38.030.

Findings—Intent—2025 c 417: See note following RCW 82.38.030.

Effective dates—1991 c 342: See note following RCW 47.01.425.

RCW 47.24.030 Acquisition of rights-of-way—Condemnation proceedings. The department is authorized to acquire rights-of-way, by purchase, gift, or condemnation for any such streets, highways, bridges, and wharves. Any such condemnation proceedings shall be exercised in the manner provided by law for condemnation proceedings to acquire lands required for state highways. [1984 c 7 s 151; 1961 c 13 s 47.24.030. Prior: 1949 c 220 s 5, part; 1945 c 250 s 1, part; 1943 c 82 s 10, part; 1937 c 187 s 61, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 6450-61, part.]

Right-of-way donations: Chapter 47.14 RCW.

RCW 47.24.040 Street fund—Expenditures on streets forming part of state highway. All funds accruing to the credit of incorporated cities and towns in the motor vehicle fund shall be paid monthly to such incorporated cities and towns and shall, by the respective cities and towns, be placed in a fund to be designated as "city street fund" and disbursed as authorized and directed by the legislative authority of the city or town, as agents of the state, for salaries and wages, material, supplies, equipment, purchase or condemnation of right-of-way, engineering or any other proper highway or street purpose in connection with the construction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of any city street or bridge, or viaduct or underpassage along, upon or across such streets. Such expenditure may be made either independently or in conjunction with any federal, state or any county funds. [1961 c 13 s 47.24.040. Prior: 1949 c 220 s 4; 1947 c 96 s 1; 1943 c 82 s 9; 1939 c 181 s 8; 1937 c 187 s 60; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 6450-60.]

RCW 47.24.050 Aid on streets by state or county—Payment. If a city or town, whether or not any of its streets are designated as forming a part of a state highway, is unable to construct, repair, or maintain its streets for good cause, or if it is in need of engineering assistance to construct, repair, or maintain any of its streets, it may authorize the department to perform such construction, repair, or maintenance, or it may secure necessary engineering assistance from the department, to the extent of the funds credited or to be credited in the motor vehicle fund for payment to the city or town. Any sums due from a city or town for such purposes shall be paid on vouchers approved and submitted by the department from moneys credited to the city or town in the motor vehicle fund, and the amount of the payments shall be deducted from funds which would otherwise be paid to the city or town from the motor vehicle fund. The department may in certain special cases, in its discretion, enter into an agreement with the governing officials of the city or town for the performance of such work or services, the terms of which shall provide for reimbursement of the motor vehicle fund for the benefit of the state's share of the fund by the city or town of the cost thereof from any funds of the city or town on hand and legally available for the

work or services. The city or town may, by resolution, authorize the legislative authority of the county in which it is located, to perform any such construction, repair, or maintenance, and the work shall be paid for by the city or town at the actual cost thereof as provided for payment for work performed on city streets, and any payment received therefor by a county shall be deposited in the county road fund to be expended under the same provisions as are imposed upon the funds used to perform the construction, repair, or maintenance. [1984 c 7 s 152; 1961 c 13 s 47.24.050. Prior: 1951 c 54 s 1; 1949 c 220 s 6; 1943 c 82 s 11; 1937 c 187 s 63; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 6450-63.]