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H.B. 465
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Sheehy and Bird

Helena Volzer, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Transportation to notify the general community and offer an opportunity for appropriate public involvement before making any significant changes to any street or roadway (current law applies these procedures only with regard to a new state highway or to a significant change to a state highway).
- Specifically requires the Director to notify any school impacted by an additional state highway, or a significant change to a state highway or other street or roadway.
- Requires the Director, or any person preparing a traffic safety study for the Department of Transportation, to do both of the following:
 - Consider the impact of a proposed project on traffic through a designated school zone; and
 - Evaluate any increase or decrease of traffic through a designated school zone in light of the safety of students and school traffic.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Notification of Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects

Background

Under current law, the Director of Transportation must notify the general community and offer an opportunity for appropriate public involvement when:

1. Establishing a new state highway; or
2. Making a significant change to an existing state highway.

The opportunity for public involvement must meet requirements specified in the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It may consist of activities such as public hearings or meetings, small group meetings with local officials, individual meetings, news releases, public

notices, workshops, newsletters, electronic communications, radio announcements, mail notification, and other activities considered appropriate for the exchange of information. The opportunity for involvement must be provided in each county where the highway will be located or where the significant changes are proposed.¹

Additional notifications

The bill also requires the Director of Transportation to notify the general community and offer an opportunity for appropriate public involvement before making any significant changes to **any other** street or roadway. In addition, the Director must specifically notify any school that will be impacted by an additional state highway or a significant change to a state highway or any other street or roadway.² A school is broadly defined under the bill to include most public and private schools.³

Traffic safety studies

The bill requires the Director, or any person preparing a traffic safety study for ODOT to do both of the following:

1. Consider the impact of a proposed project on traffic through a designated school zone; and
2. Evaluate any increase or decrease of traffic through a designated school zone in light of the safety of students and school traffic.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-25-21

H0465-I-134/ts

¹ R.C. 5511.01(B) and (C).

² R.C. 5511.01(B).

³ See R.C. 5511.01(P).

⁴ R.C. 5517.08.