

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: cstewart@lwvwa.org

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Both Transportation Committees have relatively light hearing schedules for the coming week. It is important to understand that transportation bills have an additional week before cut-off in the house of origin, which is February 24 (other policy bills have a cut-off date of February 17). Some of the bills in the Transportation Committees this week are not related to issues that League has positions on or is following. Hence, the most important ones are those that follow.

Action Needed This Week

These bills will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on Monday, February 13, at 4:00 pm. **Sign in PRO as indicated before 3:00 pm on Monday.**

[SB 5383](#) Concerning pedestrians crossing and moving along roadways. This bill makes several changes to jaywalking laws and directs driver responses to persons on the roadway. These are considered safety measures. [See information in Resource materials, below]

Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday.

[SB 5281](#) Modifying the aircraft fuel excise tax. This bill would allocate 5 cents of the gas tax to a new Commercial Aviation Mitigation Account, which must be used only for addressing environmental and other impacts associated with airports in communities impacted by the airports.

Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday

[SB 5466](#) Transit-oriented development, would amend the Growth Management Act to prohibit siting multi-family housing on parcels where any other residential use is permitted and prohibits local governments from requiring off-street parking within a transit station area. Also provides technical assistance to local governments.

Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday

[SB 5572](#) Improving traffic safety, would change how nonmoving violations are handled and provide grants focused on interventions for non-moving violations for low-income road users.

Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday

[SB 5452](#) Authorizing impact fee revenue to fund improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, would add bicycle and pedestrian facilities that were designed with multimodal

commuting as an intended use to the uses allowable with transportation impact mitigation fees.

Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday

Bill Updates

These bills have progressed to the **House or Senate Rules Committee** and are listed as second reading. They could go to the floor for action any day.

[SB 5023](#) Concerning roadside safety measures. This bill sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways.

[SB 5272](#) Relating to speed safety camera systems on state highways. This bill authorizes the use of speed safety camera systems in state highway work zones until June 30, 2030.
(Substitute)

[SB 5317](#) Concerning the removal of vehicles by a regional transit authority when obstructing the operation of high-capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizing public safety. This bill authorizes an immediate tow of any vehicles that would obstruct high capacity vehicles.
(Substitute bill)

[SB 5583](#) Improving young driver safety. This bill would require driver training for individuals between 18 and 25 to get a driver's license. It was passed as a substitute out of the Senate Transportation Committee on February 9.

[HB 1414](#) Concerning the removal of vehicles by a regional transit authority when obstructing the operation of high-capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizing public safety. This bill would allow immediate towing of obstacles to high capacity transportation vehicles. This bill was passed as a substitute from the House Transportation Committee on February 2 and is now in the House Rules Committee.

This bill has been referred to a second committee.

[SB 5471](#) Relating to the use of electric-assisted bicycles on certain trails and roads by persons with disabilities. Requires DNR and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to allow persons with a current parking placard for persons with disabilities to use class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on all nonmotorized natural surface trails and closed roads on which bicycles are allowed. **This bill was passed from the Senate Transportation Committee on February 9 and referred to the Ways & Means Committee.**

Action on these bills was taken in executive session on February 9 but the action taken is unspecified as of this writing.

[HB 1084](#) Concerning freight mobility prioritization, would establish a board to advise on freight mobility needs while addressing transition to zero emissions technology and historically over-burdened communities.

[HB 1118](#) Addressing school bus safety, would require seat belts and safety cameras in school buses as of September 2024. Passed from the House Education Committee but referral to next step is unspecified.

[HB 1257](#) Concerning the authority of cargo and passenger ports. This bill would authorize cargo and ports to coordinate with others without liability under federal antitrust laws.

[HB 1485](#) Concerning roadside safety measures, sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways.

[HB 1513](#) Traffic safety. This bill prevents law enforcement officers from pulling people over for violations that don't impact safety, limits searches following traffic stops, and provides funding to help people fix violations. It also had a public hearing on January 30 in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee, with action taken in executive session on February 9, unspecified as of this writing. [See article in Resource materials, below]

[HB 1540](#) Requiring driver training curriculum to include instruction on sharing the road with large vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles and buses.

[HB 1674](#) Improving protections for pedestrians and other vulnerable roadway users from dangers posed by certain pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. This bill provides regulations for educating purchasers of certain trucks and SUVs about the dangers they may create if not properly operated.

These bills had public hearings but have not been scheduled for executive session.

[SB 5504](#) Addressing open motor vehicle safety recalls. This bill would establish a system using the vehicle inspection program of assuring that people are notified of and held accountable for responding to vehicle safety recalls.

[SB 5430](#) Providing support for low-income novice drivers to receive driver training. This bill would provide vouchers for low-income youth to receive driver safety training.

[SB 5431](#) Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses, requires that any school buses purchased by school districts, charter schools, or state-tribal education compact schools be zero-emission school buses beginning September 1, 2035.

[SB 5449](#) Concerning the requirements for school buses used for purposes other than the transportation of students. This bill would require that when a school bus is sold and used for

other purposes, it must be converted by repainting, removal of lights and stop sign, etc., so that it is no longer identifiable as a school vehicle.

[SB 5514](#) Prohibiting drivers from making a right turn within proximity of certain facilities. This bill would remove the “free” right turn on a red light within 1000 feet of facilities such as schools, parks, hospitals and more.

[SB 5195](#) Addressing fuel price transparency. This bill would require rounding the price of gas up to the nearest penny.

[SB 5314](#) Relating to electric-assisted bicycle use on certain trails and roads. This bill requires state agencies with jurisdiction over a nonmotorized natural surface trail or road closed to motorized vehicles that is open to bicycle use to allow all classes of electric-assisted bicycles to use such trail or road, creates a one-year pass for bicycles and establishes a fund for maintenance of signage and education about electric-assisted bicycles.

[HB 1040](#) Establishing an aviation and aerospace advisory committee, which would require the state aviation and aerospace advisory committee to make recommendations to both Commerce and Transportation on matters including emerging technologies, new federal regulations, funding priorities, policy considerations, methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and workforce development opportunities. It would also mandate representation on the committee from legislators, aviation and aerospace companies and associations, county commissioners, airport officials, and certain state agencies and statewide organizations. After its public hearing on January 11, this bill has not been moved to executive session.

[HB 1582](#) Prohibiting drivers from making a right turn within proximity of certain facilities. This bill would remove the “free” right turn on a red light within 1000 feet of facilities such as schools, parks, hospitals and more. This bill had a public hearing on February 2 but has not been scheduled for executive session.

[SB 5560](#) Improving older driver safety. This bill would require the Department of Transportation to develop a plan with implementation strategies for improving safety involving drivers over age 70 by January 2024. This bill had a public hearing on January 31 and executive session on February 9 but no action was taken.

Resource Materials

- Wonder why the change in **jaywalking** laws? See this [op-ed](#). See this [article](#) published by Transportation Choices Coalition: “Statewide data on jaywalking stops confirms disproportionate impact on Black and unhoused individuals”.
- ACLU discussion of traffic safety needs and HB 1513 [here](#)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) article about traffic safety [here](#)
- WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar presentation to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), January 2023, re the future of transportation; video [here](#)

- Grants to local jurisdictions for Vision Zero, safe streets program, [here](#)
- Local Vision Zero forum - February 24, 2023 (noon – 1 p.m.) – When a Sidewalk Isn't Enough: Vision Zero in Tacoma & Pierce County. Not just for Tacoma residents. Register [Here](#)
- [Redmond Complete Streets Conversations](#): Designing Safer Streets, March 22. Not just for Redmond. Register [here](#).
- Car Ownership costs, see AAA article about annual cost of car ownership [here](#)

How You Can Be Involved

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to transportation.
- Contact Cynthia Stewart, cstewart@lwvwa.org, to receive additional information.