

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

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February 19, 2023

Thank you to all who signed in on bills last week. Your participation is very much appreciated. There has been little movement this past week, although a couple of bills moved to Rules Committee. But the Transportation Committees have another week to take action. As with the fiscal committees, the Transportation Committee cut-off for policy bills in the house of origin is February 24. Most of next week in both House and Senate Transportation Committees (Wednesday through Friday) is reserved for bills to be determined. However, there are a few bills on Monday and Tuesday that could use your help.

Please note that various types of resource information are posted at the end of these weekly reports.

Action Needed This Week

These bills will have a public hearing on Monday, February 20, at 1:30 pm. **Please sign in PRO before 12:30 pm on Monday.**

SB 5742 Codifying certain existing grant programs at the department of transportation. This bill was newly introduced this week. It would establish grant programs for transit service for people with disabilities and other special needs and will establish a paratransit program, freight rail investment bank and public transit ride share program.

Sign in PRO [here](#).

SB 5412 Reducing local governments' land use permitting workloads. This bill passed as a substitute from the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee. It will by ensuring objective and timely design review for housing and other land use proposals. It supports transit-oriented development.

Sign in PRO [here](#).

These bills will have a public hearing on Tuesday, February 21, at 1:30 pm. **Please sign in PRO before 12:30 pm on Tuesday.**

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 passed the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry

Committee as a substitute and is now scheduled for public hearing on Tuesday, February 21, at 1:30 in the House Transportation Committee.

Sign in PRO [here](#).

[HB 1832](#) Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways. Recognizing the value of electric vehicles to the environment and climate but also that they do not contribute to road preservation and maintenance through the gas tax, this bill establishes a voluntary road usage charge program in 2025 in anticipation of a permanent program in 2030. The charge would be 2.5 cents/mile and participants can have their electric vehicle charges waived.

Sign in PRO [here](#).

Bill Updates

A number of bills reported last week as in the respective Rules Committee and waiting to be pulled for floor action are still in that waiting mode. The bills that follow have changed status this week.

[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. It passed the Senate Transportation Committee on January 26 and passed the Senate as a substitute bill on February 15. It has now been referred to the House Transportation Committee.

[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. This bill has been passed the Transportation Committee and moved to Senate Rules Committee.

[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 overburdened communities. This bill has passed the House Transportation Committee as a substitute and is in the House Rules Committee.

[HB 1118](#) Addressing school bus safety, would require seat belts and safety cameras in school buses as of September 2024. This bill has passed from the House Education Committee as a substitute and is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

[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. This bill passed the House Transportation Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

[HB 1485](#) Concerning roadside safety measures, sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways. This bill passed the House Transportation Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

[HB 1540](#) Requiring driver training curriculum to include instruction on sharing the road with large vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles and buses. This bill passed the House Transportation Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

Resource Materials

- Kitsap Transit eyes plans to relaunch Sunday bus service. See article [here](#).
- Read the One Seattle Plan: Community Meeting Series Feedback Report [here](#). It describes neighborhood feedback preliminary to the City's comprehensive plan update.
- Read about Pierce Transit going to a \$1 low-income fare [here](#).
- 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](#).
- [Redmond Events: here](#) (not just for Redmond)
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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.