

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

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Much of the transportation-related work occurs in the budget adoption process, which is later in the session.

During the coming week, there will be a great deal of attention given to transportation safety issues. Public hearings will be held on the following bills in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23:

[SB 5195](#) Addressing fuel price transparency.

[SB 5272](#) Relating to speed safety camera systems on state highways.

[SB 5314](#) Relating to electric-assisted bicycle use on certain trails and roads.

[SB 5471](#) Relating to the use of electric-assisted bicycles on certain trails and roads by persons with disabilities.

Public hearings will be held on the following bills in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 24:

[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

An Executive session to determine whether this bill is amended or retained in its original form and whether it is passed out from committee or not will be held on the following:

[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. This bill had a public hearing on January 11 and will be considered in executive session on January 20.

Other bills listed in the Bill Descriptions are either pending executive sessions or have not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

Some resources that may be of interest include these:

- **Amtrak Survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CASCADES-2023>
Add to Amtrak's data about user patterns and provide information about when you do or do not use Amtrak and why.
- Road Usage Charge Report: <https://wstc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-ruc-annual-report.pdf>. Read the 2022 findings about the potential road usage charge that is proposed as a future funding source for transportation that would not be limited to highways and could replace the gas tax as fossil fuel utilization declines.
- 2022 Data about WA State Ferries: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/WashingtonStateFerries-TrafficStatistics-2022Annual.pdf>

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@lwwwa.org, to receive additional information.