

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: cstewart@lwvwa.org

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Transportation Week of Action

The **Transportation Choices Coalition**, to which League belongs, is hosting a week of action this week: **January 30 through February 2**. The week starts with Transit Talk at **1:00 pm on Monday, January 30: Repealing WA's Jaywalking Laws**. This is a discussion among various human rights and police accountability activists and authors of books related to pedestrian deaths. Get more information about the activities of this week and how to participate [here](#).

Transportation Choices Coalition is also co-sponsoring a legislative action hour to promote **pedestrian safety and police accountability** on **Monday evening, January 30, at 6:00 pm**, [here](#).

Take the **WSDOT survey** about their web site [here](#).

Sign up for the **Amtrak** webinar on **February 7** regarding its planning process [here](#).

This Week's Public Hearings

Continuing with the transportation safety theme that the legislature is focusing on this year, here are hearings coming up this week.

Monday, January 30:

[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. The public hearing on this bill will be at 4:00 pm on Monday, January 30, in the House Transportation Committee. **You can sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Monday.**

[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 has a public hearing at 1:30 pm in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee. Read more about this bill in the ACLU article noted in Resources, below. **Sign in PRO [here](#) before 12:30 pm on Monday.**

Tuesday, January 31:

These bills are all being heard in the Senate Transportation Committee at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 31. **Sign in PRO before 3:00 pm on Tuesday.**

[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. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[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. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[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. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[SB 5583](#) Improving young driver safety. This bill would require driver training for individuals between 18 and 25 to get a driver's license. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[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. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[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. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

Thursday, February 2:

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 is scheduled for public hearing in the House Transportation Committee at 4:00 pm on Thursday, February 2. **Sign in PRO [here](#) prior to 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 2.**

Bill Updates

Much of the transportation-related work occurs in the budget adoption process, which is later in the session. A number of policy bills are being heard in committee but most have not moved to executive session yet.

Last week, there was a great deal of attention given to transportation safety issues. Public hearings were held on the following bills in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23 and 24 but no executive sessions have yet been scheduled.

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

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

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

Resources

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. Read the explanation of the planning process and survey [here](#) and [here](#), including information about a webinar on February 7.
- **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>
- **New Federal \$\$ for Ferries:** <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/what-new-federal-money-will-mean-for-wa-ferries/>; and <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/fta-ferry-grant-program-2022-selected-projects>
- **Transportation for America discussion of jaywalking laws:** <https://t4america.org/2023/01/25/repealing-jaywalking-laws-to-refocus-on-street-design/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=1ba02f9b-41c1-4fd5-a162-1e94da826e12>
- **ACLU discussion of HB 1513:** <https://www.aclu-wa.org/story/it%E2%80%99s-time-prioritize-traffic-safety-all-washingtonians-bill-will-do>

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.