

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: [cstewart@lwvwa.org](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org)

**March 12, 2023**

In the past week, several bills passed their respective houses of origin. Some have already moved to public hearings in the opposite chambers; others are pending. Several bills related to safety did not progress to the floor from their respective Rules Committees in time for a vote before the cutoff and died.

Some bills that did not yet pass the house of origin could still be alive because they may be necessary to implement the budget.

### **Action Needed This Week**

These bills are scheduled for public hearing in the week ahead. Your help by signing in PRO would be most appreciated.

**[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 passed the Senate with a vote of 34-14 and has been referred to the House Local Government Committee, where it has a public hearing at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 14.

**Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 9:30 am on Tuesday.**

**[SB 5272](#) Relating to speed safety camera systems on state highways**, would require enforcement of speeding caught on cameras. This bill passed the Senate as a substitute with a vote of 47 to 2 and has been referred to the House Transportation Committee, where it has a public hearing at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 15.

**Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Wednesday.**

**[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. This bill passed the Senate as a substitute with a vote of 40-8 and has been referred to the House Housing Committee, where it has a public hearing on Thursday, March 16 at 8:00 am.

**Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 7:00 am on Thursday.**

**[SB 5583](#) Improving young driver safety, would require driver training for individuals between 18 and 25 to get a driver's license.** This bill has passed the Senate as a substitute with a vote of

41-7 and has been referred to the House Transportation Committee, where it has a public hearing at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 16.

Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Thursday.

## Other Bills That Passed the House of Origin

**[SB 5023](#) Concerning roadside safety measures.** This bill sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways. This bill passed the Senate, 49-0, and has been assigned to the House Transportation Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 9. As of this writing, executive session on this bill has not been scheduled.

**[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 and has now been referred to the House Transportation Committee. where it had a public hearing on March 9. As of this writing, executive session on this bill has not been scheduled.

**[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 would ensure objective and timely design review for housing and other land use proposals and supports transit-oriented development. This bill passed the Senate on March 6 with a vote of 49-0 and has been referred to the House Local Government Committee but as of this writing has not been scheduled for public hearing.

**[SB 5504](#) Addressing open motor vehicle safety recalls,** would establish a system of assuring that people are notified of and held accountable for responding to vehicle safety recalls. This bill passed the Senate on March 8 with a vote of 49-0. As of this writing, it has not yet been referred to a House 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 on March 7 with a vote of 95-0 and has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee. As of this writing, it has not been scheduled for public hearing.

**[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 with a vote of 97-0 and has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee but has not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

**[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 with a vote of 97-0 and has been assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee.

## Bill Updates

**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. This bill has had a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee on February 23. Because it is a bill that establishes a revenue, it may not be subject to the same cut-off schedule.

## Bills That Have Died

**HB 1118 Addressing school bus safety,** would require seat belts and safety cameras in school buses as of September 2024. This bill passed from the House Education Committee as a substitute to the House Appropriations Committee but did not pass out of the Appropriations Committee by the cut-off date.

**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 passed the House Transportation Committee as a substitute and was in the House Rules Committee but did not move to the floor for a vote before the cutoff.

**HB 1485 Concerning roadside safety measures.** This bill sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways. It passed the House Transportation Committee and was in the House Rules Committee and placed on second reading but did not move to the floor for a vote before the cutoff.

**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. It passed the Senate Transportation Committee and was in the Senate Rules Committee but did not move to the floor for action before the cutoff.

**SB 5431/HB 1368 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 5431 has had a public hearing in the Senate Early Learning Committee. HB 1368 passed the House Environment & Energy Committee and has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Neither bill progressed sufficiently before the cut-off dates to move ahead.

**SB 5471 Relating to the use of electric-assisted bicycles on certain trails and roads by persons with disabilities,** would allow any person with a current disabled parking placard to use electric-assisted bicycles on all nonmotorized natural surface trails and closed roads where bicycles are allowed. This bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee as a substitute and

the Senate Ways & Means Committee and was in the Senate Rules Committee but did not get referred to the floor in time for a vote before the cutoff.

**[SB 5514/](#)[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. Both bills have had public hearings in their respective Transportation Committees but have not progressed.

**[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. This bill had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee but has not yet had any further action.

## Resource Information

**Transportation Choices Coalition**, one of the coalitions to which League belongs, is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. If you haven't been aware of this group, check it out [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](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org), to receive additional information.