

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

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In the week ahead, there will be a transition from floor action, through Wednesday, to resumption of committee hearings on Thursday. Wednesday is the cutoff for bills to pass the house of origin except those necessary to implement the budget. Some of the bills we are following are in the Rules Committee awaiting a call to the floor for a vote.

Action Needed This Week

These bills have each passed the Senate and are scheduled for public hearing in the House Transportation Committee at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 9. **Please sign in PRO for these bills before 3:00 pm on Thursday.**

[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.

Please sign in PRO [here](#).

[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.

Please sign in PRO [here](#).

Other Bills That Passed the House of Origin

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

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

[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 be ensuring objective and timely design review for housing and other land use proposals. It supports transit-oriented development. This bill has passed the Senate Local Government and Transportation Committees and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

[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 has passed the Senate Transportation Committee as a substitute and the Senate Ways & Means Committee. It is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

[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 Transportation Committee as a substitute and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

[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 Transportation Committee as a substitute and is now in the 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 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 has passed the House Transportation Committee as a substitute 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 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.

[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 is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

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.

[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 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.

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.