



Weekly Legislative Update: Transportation

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Bills Needing Action This Week

Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the “Organization” box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

HB 1428/SSB 5383 Concerning pedestrians crossing and moving along roadways. HB 1428 has not moved in the House. SB 5383 has a public hearing on a substitute bill on Tuesday, January 23, at 4:00 pm. This bill would make significant change to jaywalking laws, allowing a pedestrian to cross a roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less at any point as long as such crossing does not impede the flow of traffic, requiring drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing the roadway and more.

 **Sign in PRO on SSB 5383 [here](#) before 3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 23.**

HB 2456/SB 6237 Ensuring connectivity for Washington wildlife through safe passages. HB 2456 has not been assigned to committee or scheduled for a hearing. SB 6237 is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, January 23 at 4:00 pm. This bill requires WSDOT to negotiate an MOU with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish connectivity that would allow safer migration of many animals and avoid the extensive damages and costs that are now incurred from vehicles colliding with wildlife.

 **Sign in PRO on SB 6237 [here](#) before 3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 23.**

SB 6114 Requiring local airport operators to provide sustainable aviation fuel for use in private jets. This bill would require any local airport operator that provides aviation fuel to offer sustainable fuel and establishes deadlines for such requirements. This is a greenhouse gas emission strategy. The bill will have a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, January 23, 4:00 pm.

 **Sign in PRO on SB 6114 [here](#) before 3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 23.**

Overview

The House and Senate Transportation Committees had more limited agendas this week than last. Bills we are following that were before those committees are listed below. Other bills that will have public hearings next week that we are following are also listed below. The emphasis this year appears to be on safety.

Next week, the Senate Transportation Committee will hold a work session on streamlining transportation projects. This is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Monday, January 22. The link to watch it is [here](#).

In addition to the bills we are following, the League is participating with allies in encouraging changes in the supplemental budget that would support increased rail service. Rail has been largely left out of the transportation system analysis to date but could contribute greatly to traffic and greenhouse gas reductions as well as potentially supporting improvements to the electric grid. These changes include:

- Seeking federal funding for projects that reduce travel time between Seattle and Portland and between Seattle and Vancouver, BC
- Using multi-modal transportation funding to establish a Rail Office
- Using multi-modal transportation funding to examine a number of short-haul rail opportunities
- Using Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funds to support passenger rail projects in WA State
- Using CCA funds for a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) of electrification of rail yards in Washington

These will be supported in testimony to the Transportation Committees for their supplemental budget proposals.

Bills We Are Following

SHB 1368/SB 5431 Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses. This is a high priority for League. HB 1368 had a public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee last week and was scheduled for executive session on January 18 but no action was taken. SB 5431 has not moved in the Senate. This bill would mandate acquisition of zero-emission buses for school transport with technical and financial support from OSPI and Ecology. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as reduce health risks to children who ride the buses.

HB 1428/SSB 5383 Concerning pedestrians crossing and moving along roadways. HB 1428 has not moved in the House. SB 5383 has a public hearing on a substitute bill on Tuesday, January 23, at 4:00 pm. This bill would make significant change to jaywalking laws, allowing a pedestrian to cross a roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less at any point as long as such crossing does not impede the flow of traffic, requiring drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing the roadway and more.

HB 2356/SB 6115 Concerning speed safety camera systems. HB 2356 had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 18 but has not been scheduled for executive session. SB 6115 had a hearing on January 15 in the Senate Transportation Committee but has not yet been scheduled for executive session. This bill would address administration, penalty structure, and enforcement of speed safety camera system violations in state highway work zones. The bill would require WSDOT to create a website to educate the traveling public about the operation of speed safety camera systems in state highway work zones. The prohibition on driving a vehicle in a state highway work zone at speeds greater than allowed would be made clear. Warnings would be issued for the first violation but fines would apply for subsequent events.

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SB 5959 Concerning automated traffic safety cameras. This bill would authorize cities and counties to use automated traffic safety cameras if approved by local ordinance but analysis that is required to do this includes equity considerations, such as impact of camera locations on livability accessibility, economics, education, and environmental health. It had a public hearing on January 15 in the Senate Transportation Committee but has not been scheduled for executive session.

SB 6114 Requiring local airport operators to provide sustainable aviation fuel for use in private jets. This bill would require any local airport operator that provides aviation fuel to offer sustainable fuel and establishes deadlines for such requirements. This is a greenhouse gas emission strategy. The bill will have a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, January 23, 4:00 pm.

Resource Information

Transportation Choices Coalition, one of the coalitions to which League belongs, is celebrating its 30th 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, to receive additional information.