

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 2456/SB 6237 Ensuring connectivity for Washington wildlife through safe passages. **HB 2456** is scheduled for public hearing on Monday, January 29 at 4:00 pm in the House Transportation Committee. **SB 6237** had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23 and was scheduled for executive session last week but the outcome has not been posted. 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 here for HB 2456 before 3:00 PM on Monday, January 29.**

SB 6304 Implementing certain recommendations of the transportation electrification strategy. This bill would prioritize strategies for electric utilities and other entities to implement systems that include residential and fleet charging and upgrades to grid infrastructure in order to deliver power to electric vehicles. It includes a requirement that these entities also meet or exceed the same equity-related investment requirements in RCW 70A.535.080 as implemented by the department of ecology or a higher standard as set by relevant commissions. It has a public hearing scheduled for 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 1 in the Senate Transportation Committee.

⚠️ **Sign in PRO here before 12:30 PM on Thursday, February 1**

Overview

In addition to the bills we are following, 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
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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 is now scheduled for executive session on Monday, January 29. **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 January 23 but has not been scheduled for executive session. 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 also 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.

HB 2456/SB 6237 Ensuring connectivity for Washington wildlife through safe passages. **HB 2456** is scheduled for public hearing on Monday, January 29 at 4:00 pm in the House

Transportation Committee. **SB 6237** had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23 and was scheduled for executive session last week but the outcome has not been posted. 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.

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 6304 Implementing certain recommendations of the transportation electrification strategy. This bill would prioritize strategies for electric utilities and other entities to implement systems that include residential and fleet charging and upgrades to grid infrastructure in order to deliver power to electric vehicles. It includes a requirement that these entities also meet or exceed the same equity-related investment requirements in RCW 70A.535.080 as implemented by the department of ecology or a higher standard as set by relevant commissions. It has a public hearing scheduled for 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 1 in the Senate Transportation Committee.

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 had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23, but it has not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

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](#).

Read the report [Ticket to Walk: How Jaywalking Enforcement Impacts Washingtonians](#), that shows how jaywalking enforcement impacts people across Washington State

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](#), Transportation Issue Chair, to receive additional information.