

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

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**February 13, 2022**

This was a very big week for transportation. The Senate led, with concurrence from the House leadership, on presenting a **16-year transportation package totaling \$16.8 billion** in expenditures. The package was announced Tuesday afternoon and a public hearing was scheduled for Thursday morning in the Senate Transportation Committee. There were so many people signed up to testify that it continued on Friday morning.

The Senate Transportation Committee will have an executive session on this proposal, called Move Ahead WA, on Monday, February 14. The outcome of that session will likely move quickly to the floor for Senate action and on to the House for consideration.

The plan generally does the following:

- Funds transit at heretofore unseen levels (but still not enough)
- Funds youth fares, Safe Routes to School, bicycle education and more for youth
- Identifies five critical new projects, such as the Columbia River and Nisqually bridges; and completes five projects remaining from the earlier Connecting WA plan. These are critical for the highway system.
- Prioritizes maintenance and preservation ahead of new construction, other than the aforementioned projects

To see details of the plan, go [here](#).

In addition, the following bills have passed:

- [SB 5510](#), Relating to renewal of the sales and use tax for transportation benefit districts. It has not yet been scheduled for public hearing in the House.
- [SB 5528](#), Authorizing voter-approved additive revenue sources within a regional transit authority area for enhanced service zones. This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee in the House.
- [HB 1673](#), Concerning broadband infrastructure loans and grants made by the public works board. This bill has not yet been scheduled for public hearing in the Senate.

The following bills did not pass by the cut-off deadlines:

- SB 5232, Relating to limiting bonding toll revenues on certain state highway facilities (I-405 and SR 167). This would limit use of toll revenues on those roads for bonding if the toll revenue is not up to a certain standard
- SB 5444, Replaces the current electric and hybrid vehicle fees with a per-mile fees and requires privacy for vehicle usage data
- SB 5903, Providing multimodal transportation options at drive-up services.
- HB 1039, Requires updating of the statewide bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum for middle schoolers and mandates certain health and safety reporting

- HB 1204, Concerning the electrification of transportation and development of a strategy to require only electric vehicle sales by 2030 including addressing the equity impacts of that change
- HB 1603, Shifting certain transportation funding obligations to the General Fund

**Other:**

The Puget Sound Regional Council is holding a public comment period for the draft PSRC Regional Transportation Plan. There is a virtual open house through the end of February [here](#), along with a link to make comments.

## **Bills Seeing Action This Week**

None for which we can anticipate the opportunity to comment.

## **How You Can Be Involved**

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have education teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Cynthia Stewart, Growth Management Issue Chair, [cstewart@lwvwa.org](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org)