

Will revenues be up or down?

March 15, 2021

As we enter week ten, we are back to bill hearings and work sessions. Both the Senate and House have packed agendas. This includes hearings on several bills we have been supportive of and are following closely:

[HB 1023](#): Rep. Mike Steele (R-Chelan): Concerning predesign requirements and thresholds.

HB 1023 would increase the threshold for construction projects requiring predesign from \$5 million to \$10 million, which establishes the same threshold for all capital project types.

[HB 1137](#), Rep. Bob McCaslin (R-Spokane Valley): Elevating road maintenance and preservation in transportation planning.

HB 1137 reorders the state's six transportation policy goals to prioritize health and safety and preservation and maintenance as the state's foremost priorities when it comes to transportation investments.

[HB 1502](#), Rep. Sharon Wylie (D-Vancouver): Concerning the procurement and design of electric ferries by counties.

HB 1502 would allow any county to use "best-value" bidding for the procurement and design of electric ferries. This bill comes from Skagit County and is a priority bill for WSAC and WSACE.

[SB 5032](#), Sen. Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle): Concerning the reauthorization and improvements to alternative public works contracting procedures.

SB 5032 would extend the use of alternative public works contracting procedures until July 1, 2031.

In addition to public hearings, we expect to see the March revenue forecast mid-week. Once the revenue forecast is made public, budget writers will use it as a guide for their biennial budgets. The much-anticipated revenue forecast is expected to be up, potentially by a lot. That is good news for a state budget that has been stretched by the pandemic. Unfortunately, the transportation budget is rumored to still be down. The pandemic has resulted in people traveling less, reducing toll, gas tax, and ferry revenues. By how much is the great unknown. Stay tuned for further information as we learn more.