

Joint Transportation Committee:

Overview, workplan and schedule for 2021

June 22, 2021

What is the JTC?

The Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that conducts transportation related studies and other activities to inform state and local government policymakers, including legislators and associated staff.

Who is the JTC?

- We're governed by an Executive Committee – the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees.



Rep. Fey Rep. Barkis Sen. Hobbs Sen. King
1st Co-Chair 2021 2nd Co-Chair 2021

- All other Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees may participate in our meetings, tours and studies.
- We're a small legislative agency with four staff.

What does the JTC do?

- **Studies** as directed by the legislature. Most studies conducted by contracted consultant with guidance from a workgroup that includes legislative staff and sometimes a stakeholder panel that includes legislators
- **Meetings/Worksessions:** Four to six per interim (approximately monthly), one or more held outside of Olympia
- **Transportation related tours** for members, as well as legislative and agency staff.
- **Transportation Resource Manual.** Updated every two years.

Transportation Committees' History

1957 -1959

“Joint Committee on Highways”

- 1 more Representative than Senator
- Rotation of Chairs continued
- \$.10 from vehicle fee to transportation studies.

1989-1995

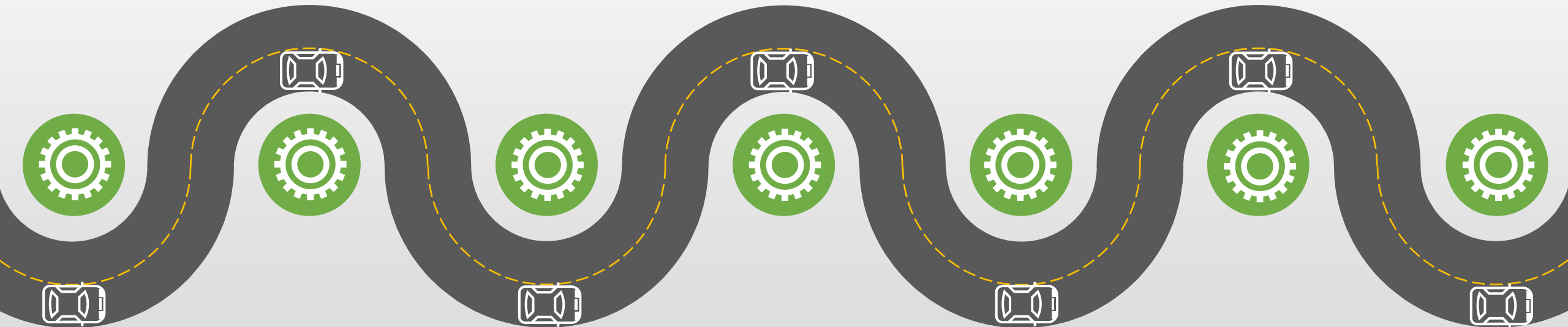
89-92 Senate Chair

92-95 House & Senate co-chairs

1999

LTC, HTC, and STC separated into 3 separate staffs

- LTC remains bicameral – studies only
- STC joins Senate Committee Services
- HTC eventually joins OPR



1947

“Joint Fact Finding Committee on Highways Streets and Bridges”

- Rotating Chairs
- Studies only

1971 - 1973

“Legislative Transportation Committee”

- LTC staffs standing committees
- Chaired by House until 1989

1995 - 1999

Senate Bills to equalize members and require rotating chairs

- Passes Senate
- Not heard in House

2005

LTC becomes JTC

Studies Assigned in 2021-23 Transportation Budget

([SSB 5165, Sec. 204](#))

1. Hood River Bridge Bi-State Authority
2. Broadband Facilities in Highway Rights-of-Way
3. Assessment of State Support for Short Line Rail Infrastructure
4. Truck Parking Action Plan
5. Washington State Ferries Workforce Plan
6. Car Tabs Payment Options Workgroup
7. Transportation Equity in Cities

Hood River Bridge Bi-State Authority

Legal consultant to recommend options for the formation of a bistate bridge authority for the purpose of constructing, financing, operating and maintaining a new replacement bridge over the Columbia River near Hood River connecting Klickitat County in Washington to Hood River County in Oregon. The consultant will confer with the Hood River Bridge [Bistate Working Group](#) which consists of six local government jurisdictions. Seeking new local government bistate bridge authority that at a minimum may:

- Issue bonds for bridge construction;
- Collect tolls; and
- Secure and administer state or federal grants and loans.

The existing toll bridge is owned and operated by the Port of Hood River.

Budget: \$50,000
JTC Staff: Paul Neal, Dave Catterson
STC & HTC Staff: Kim Johnson, David Munnecke
Report Due Date: September 30, 2021



Facilitating the Coordinated Installation of Broadband along State Highways

Develop and recommend strategies that would allow for state highway rights-of-way to be used to expand broadband access as part of the state's overall broadband strategy.

Will include engagement with WSDOT, Statewide Broadband Office, public and private broadband providers.

Budget:	\$220,000
JTC Staff:	Paul Neal, Alyson Cummings
STC & HTC Staff:	Erica Bramlet, Megan McPhaden
Report Due Date:	January 1, 2022

Assessment of State Support for Short Line Rail Infrastructure

Update the *Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment* (2015), assess the effectiveness of state support for short-line rail infrastructure and make recommendations to improve and enhance that support.

Recommendations to be informed by outreach to short line owners, operators, customers and others.

Budget:	\$200,000
JTC Staff:	Dave Catterson, Paul Neal
STC & HTC Staff:	Kelly Simpson, Jennifer Harris
Report Due Date:	By January 1, 2022

Truck Parking Action Plan

Develop a plan for immediate next steps for near-term and lasting change in the availability of truck parking for short-haul and long-distance commercial vehicle drivers who require reasonable accommodations for vehicle parking, adequate services, and complying with federal rest requirements.

Action plan to be informed by outreach to representatives of the trucking industry, truck labor organizations, the shipping industry, truck stop owners, commercial freight delivery recipients (including warehouse and retail recipients), cities and counties, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Patrol.

Budget: \$200,000
JTC Staff: Alyson Cummings, Dave Catterson
STC and HTC Staff: Daniel Masterson; Jennifer Harris
Report Due Date: By January 1, 2022

Washington State Ferries Workforce Plan

Like many employers Washington State Ferries (WSF) is grappling with replacing retiring baby boomers and increasing diversity in the workforce. The available pool of employees is further limited by extensive Coast Guard licensing and certification requirements.

WSF workforce plan will address:

- Management of overtime costs;
- Recruitment;
- Retention;
- Diversity;
- Training needs;
- Leadership development;
- Other elements needed to ensure sufficient and cost-effective crewing and staffing.

Budget: \$400,000
JTC Staff: Paul Neal, Dave Catterson
STC and HTC Staff: Daniel Masterson; Beth Redfield
Report Due Dates: Strategies for managing overtime costs in the near term - January 1, 2022
Final Workforce Plan - December 20, 2022

Car Tabs Payment Options Workgroup

JTC to convene a vehicle registration (car tabs) payment work group to study and recommend new options for payment of vehicle fees and taxes due at the time of application for vehicle registration.

The work group must engage with members of the public who are interested in new options for payment of car tab fees and taxes, including persons from communities of color, low-income households, vulnerable populations, and displaced communities.

The work group must consist of, but is not limited to people representing:

- the Department of Licensing,
- county auditors,
- vehicle licensing subagents,
- local taxing authorities imposing car tab fees or taxes,
- a city offering or considering a rebate program for local car tab fees and taxes,
- vehicle owners subject to a motor vehicle excise tax,
- vehicle owners subject to an electric car or transportation electrification fee
- advocates for multimodal transportation options

Budget: \$250,000
JTC Staff: Alyson Cummings, Paul Neal
STC and HTC Staff: Daniel Masterson; Beth Redfield
Report Due Date: September 30, 2022

Transportation Equity in Washington's Cities

Study the impacts of current and historical city transportation investments on designated populations, including communities of color, low-income households, vulnerable populations, and displaced communities, including the secondary impacts to public health, economic opportunity, educational access, and environmental risk factors.

Include specific approaches to addressing existing inequities within cities with recommendations for best practices to improve, diversify, and expand city transportation investments.

Budget:	\$215,000
JTC Staff:	Dave Catterson, Alyson Cummings
STC and HTC Staff:	Daniel Masterson; Beth Redfield
Report Due Date:	December 20, 2022

Overview of JTC Study Process

1. Consultant procurement
2. During the study
3. Presentations at JTC meetings

Overview of JTC Study Process

1. Consultant procurement through Request for Proposals (RFP) process

Develop and distribute RFP

- Background research – Previous studies, current programs, other states. Consult with relevant agencies/organizations, committee staff, key legislators
- Draft RFP – Language of the proviso is primary guide. Draft offered for review to committee and caucus staff, key agency/organization contacts, legislators.
- Finalize and publish/distribute RFP: WEBS, OMWBE, JTC distribution list, Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, BidNet, JTC website
- Proposals due approximately three weeks after release of RFP

RFPs can be viewed at <https://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/RFPs.aspx>

Overview of JTC Study Process

1. Consultant procurement through Request for Proposals (RFP) process

Select consultant

- Evaluation team consists of staff from JTC, HTC, STC, OFM and relevant agency/organization
- Evaluation team meets and scores proposals to determine consultant teams to interview (typically 2 – 4 chosen for interview)
- Evaluation team conducts interviews and selects winning team. JTC Executive Committee approves selection.

Overview of JTC Study Process

2. During the study

- Studies are guided by a staff workgroup who provide advice, assistance and feedback on draft reports and presentations. They meet 3 – 6 times over the course of study.
- Some studies also have a separate Stakeholder/Policy Panel that contribute to the study through formal meetings with the consultant. Legislators often serve on these panels
- JTC project manager has at least bi-weekly progress meetings with consultant team

Overview of JTC Study Process

3. Study presentations at JTC meetings

First presentation

- Introduction and overview of study, including work plan. Present any initial findings
- Educate/inform JTC members to help set the stage for recommendations/final report
- Opportunity to ask questions and provide input on direction of study.

Caveat: The scope of the study has already been set by budget proviso which is reflected in the contract with consultant

Overview of JTC Study Process

3. Study presentations at JTC meetings

Second presentation – Draft final report

- Summary of key findings and recommendations
- Consultants strive to incorporate feedback from workgroup and stakeholders but final recommendations are those of the consultant.
- Last chance for questions and input.

Report becomes final after incorporation of final edits and notification to JTC Executive Committee.

JTC Schedule 2021

Subject to Change

July - NO MEETING

August - NO MEETING

September 23, 2021 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Olympia or videoconference

October - 2 day tour, exact dates TBD. A decision about the tour and any additional details will be announced mid-July.

November 16, 2021

Currently scheduled In conjunction with the Washington State Association of Counties annual meeting in Spokane. Senate Assembly Days conflict. May need to move to November 17 in Olympia or Videoconference

December 16, 2021

Olympia or videoconference

For more information:

leg.wa.gov/jtc