

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT      FEBRUARY 23, 2012

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**HB 2370 – Billig** (*Improving Health Outcomes through Transportation Planning*) is now scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday, February 27 at 1:30 pm (note new time that day). The next deadline for this bill is to move out of this committee on that same day – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Very late-breaking news: There is a [striking amendment](#) *not* offered up by the proponents for the bill, and the hearing will be on the striking amendment. The striker amends the current “mobility” goal to add “congestion relief”, which some believe is a goal to include more capacity for our motorized transportation system. It is likely that some of the proponents will air concerns about this new language, but the COPC and others testifiers will continue to focus on the important intersection between health and transportation.

Senate Transportation Committee member information can be found at:  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/Pages/MembersStaff.aspx>.

*Possible action steps include:*

1. Communicate with all members of the Senate Transportation Committee ASAP – email, phone or letter.
2. Use your own advocacy network to alert your constituencies about **HB 2370**.

*Key talking/written points:*

- TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IMPACT OUR HEALTH
  - Where we live (*place*) and how active we are as citizens is directly related to how our transportation environment is constructed
  - Current “default setting” in transportation planning incorporates many variables but impacts on human health is not one of them
- **HB 2370** WILL SUPPORT TWO KEY GOALS
  1. Improve health and safety of our citizens by:
    - promoting physical activity (including our children – e.g., walking to school)
    - reducing motor vehicle crashes
  2. Save precious state money through reduction of medical costs
    - Over 26% of Washington’s state residents are obese, double the rate from just 20 years ago
    - Treating chronic disease is expensive – and also preventable

FOR YEARS, OUR NARROW FOCUS ON MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION HAS ESSENTIALLY ENGINEERED A STEADY REDUCTION OF ROUTINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

☛ **HB 2370 IS A PART OF THE SOLUTION THAT WILL ENGINEER A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE: WALKERS, BIKERS, MASS TRANSIT RIDERS AS WELL AS MOTORISTS**

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