

Marble Floor Marathon, The Off Season

Dateline: 15 March.

This should not be a surprise to anyone, but our weight fee bills [SB 5309](#), being carried by Sen. Cortes (D-18) with Sen. MacEwen (R-35) as second seat, and [HB 2601](#), being carried by Rep Richards (D-26) with Rep Dent (R-13) as second and Rep Simmons (D-23) signing on did not clear the 9 February committee cutoff. We had a good hearing on 2 February in House Transportation, but the historic flooding and subsequent decimation of infrastructure during the 2nd week of December fairly well doomed the effort.

The other news is that we had a hearing for Rep. Orcutt's (R-20) bill ([HB 1367](#)) that would allow motorcyclists to use the right shoulder to get around extreme congestion, exiting the roadway at the next exit. This is a bill the Rep Orcutt brings forward on his own every year, and ABATE of WA did vote to support the measure. He did offer up an amendment to address the push back that he has received over the years, but to no avail. The bill did not garner enough support to move forward and also missed the 9 February committee cutoff. One good thing that came out of the hearing was that I got a chance to chat with WSP and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to invite them to the table with the proponents to have an actual conversation about how the practice might look. The proposal was well received, and I intend to begin pulling the project together this spring, with a target time frame of sometime this summer.

Think of it as our version of the Berkely Study.

The other long-term adventure is dealing with air ambulance reciprocity. This issue was brought to me by the good folks from Spokane. It turns out that air ambulance service is dispatched, and the most expeditious service is the one that is called out. The problem is that a subscriber of one service may get picked up by another one, potentially resulting in a large bill. I do not know how cross platform reciprocity might appear, as there are a lot of moving parts involved. I will be reaching out to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner. (OIC)

Finally, we are going into an election cycle this year. That means that every seat in the House and half of the seats in the Senate will be in play. Filings open on 20 April and close at 17:00 on 8 May. When that list comes out, we will know who is working on coming back so we will know how to target our outreach. More to follow as we move into the season, but rest assured that everyone will be asked to do local candidate outreach.

Until next time, ride safely and legislate well.

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