

**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HEARING – 3:30 PM, Thursday, January 31, 2008
PRIORITIZING FOR SAFETY**

[HB-2614, 2615, 2616]



The Washington State House of Representatives Transportation Committee met on Thursday, January 31, to review bills and hear testimony. Dan Kristiansen had three bills to prioritize funds for safety corridor projects that were included in this meeting.

The three bills specified that between 10-30% of taxes and fees already being collected for transportation purposes (car rental tax, driver's license fees, and license plate replacement fee) be allocated to fund projects for special safety corridor projects. This works out to about \$ 17 million being collected in the next two years for the safety corridors, currently U. S. 2, SR 97, and SR 20.

Dan introduced the bills to the committee. When questioned about whether or not congestion or safety was the more important priority, he responded by noting that, as legislators, they swore to uphold the State Constitution, which specifies safety and education as state responsibilities.

There were over 30 people who attended the hearing, and 10 came up to make public comments. The commentators came from Marysville, Lynnwood, and Bothell, in addition to those from the Sky Valley. The representatives on the committee not only had questions for the commentators, but also offered their own stories of danger and distress on U. S. 2.

The hearing was best summed up by Tom Cock, father of Thomas Turner, the latest victim of U. S. 2. He said that his son's death at 17 was a tragedy, but for the state not to address the safety of U. S. 2 would be a travesty.

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