



Hon. Judy Clibborn
House Transportation Committee Chair
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504

February 14, 2013

Hon. Curtis King
Senate Transportation Committee Co-Chair
PO Box 40414, Olympia, WA 98504

Hon. Tracey Eide
Senate Transportation Committee Co-Chair
PO Box 40433, Olympia, WA 98504

cc: Members of the Washington state legislature, Governor Inslee

Dear Representative Clibborn, Senator King and Senator Eide,

We are writing to encourage you to work with your fellow legislators and with Governor Inslee to **develop and pass during the 2013 legislative session a comprehensive statewide transportation investment and funding package** that makes a significant down payment on the \$50 billion need identified by the Connecting Washington Task Force.

As members of a **diverse coalition of business, labor and environmental organizations and local governments**, we recognize that Washington's transportation facilities and services are critical to our state's economic vitality and quality of life enjoyed by its citizens.

The quality of the state's transportation infrastructure impacts everyone: growers, shippers, manufacturers, a workforce of commuters, and families traveling to schools, health care and recreational opportunities.

Today, valuable public assets, including roads of all kinds, bridges, ferries, and buses, are deteriorating due to insufficient investment in their maintenance, operation, and preservation. At current preservation and maintenance funding levels, estimates are that more than half of the surfaces on state roads will be in poor to very poor condition by 2023. Local governments face similar challenges in providing local roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks to serve a growing population. And public transit demand will continue growing, increasing in the Central Puget Sound region an estimated 90 percent by 2040, posing a severe challenge for agencies whose funding has been slashed during the recession.

Collectively, these funding gaps create serious risks to public safety, the state's economic health, business competitiveness, environmental quality, and the health of communities around Washington.

When the 2011 Connecting Washington Task Force estimated our state's growing transportation needs to cost \$50 billion over the next decade, they also concluded that current funding falls short of what is needed to do the job. Current resources cannot cover the cost of preserving, integrated system to serve a growing state population in the 21st century. Revenues from the two most recent gas tax packages are now primarily obligated to debt service on prior projects, and





changing consumer patterns will make future gas taxes less effective as our state's primary funding source for transportation-related expenditures.



A broad coalition of business, labor and environmental organizations and local governments has come together to urge the Governor and legislature to begin addressing these identified needs by developing and enacting a **comprehensive statewide plan for funding critical transportation investments in the 2013 legislative session**. We encourage our elected officials to continue the tradition of bipartisan cooperation in finding transportation solutions for our state and make a significant down payment on the \$50 billion needed.



Doing so will protect public safety, enhance the state business climate, create tens of thousands of jobs, preserve our natural environment, increase transportation choices, and improve the quality of life for the people of Washington state.



Thank you.

Sincerely,



BUSINESS, LABOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



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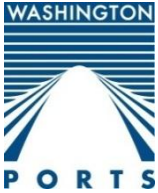
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