



Legislative Building

Washington State Legislature

Olympia, WA 98504-0482

February 2, 2016

Secretary Lynn Peterson
PO Box 47316
Attn: Sec. Lynn Peterson
Olympia, WA 98504-7316

Transportation Commission Chair Anne Haley
PO Box 47308
Attn: Chair Anne Haley
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

Dear Secretary Peterson and Commissioner Haley:

On behalf of our constituents, businesses, and the public at large, we are writing to you to request changes within the operation and management of the express toll lane (ETL) system in the I-405 corridor. Our request is based on a number of concerns that have been expressed by drivers traveling the corridor, organizers and signatories of petitions, experts analyzing the data, and local elected officials on behalf of their constituents.

Their concerns can be summarized thusly: while travel times have improved through the corridor overall, especially for transit trips, the implementation of ETL has made travel more difficult for a number of other drivers and trips. To provide some relief to drivers, we are calling on you to **eliminate tolls during evening non-peak hours, weekends, and holidays, to the extent that such a change will improve commuters' experience on I-405.**

We feel that, while such a change might not be to the benefit of all commuters, it would be a show of good faith for those drivers who have experienced adverse effects on their time and their wallets. We believe that the current demand on the corridor during other times will result in sufficient revenue being generated to meet the costs of operation.

To help all users, including those who commute and use the I-405 ETL system at and around peak commuting hours, we also ask that the Department (WSDOT) take a number of other short- and longer-term steps to improve conditions. These include:

- Adjusting the access points to allow extended access at locations such as near the SR 520 and SR 527 interchanges;
- Adding or clarifying signage and striping to eliminate confusion, such as that which occurs northbound (NB) near the 160th Street and SR 522 exits;
- Making structural changes to improve capacity in the vicinity of SR 520, SR 522, and SR 527. Such changes should include:

- Modifications on both NB and SB I-405 north of SR 522, such as by using hard shoulder running, to address the reduced number of lanes; and
- Similar modifications on NB I-405 between the SR 520 interchange and NE 70th Street to reinstate one general purpose (GP) lane;
- Focusing on specific segments and trips to tackle locale-specific congestion issues; and
- Improving the billing system and customer service.

To determine the extent that these changes have helped drivers, we ask that the Department report to the Joint Transportation Committee within six months on the impacts to drivers, both in the express toll lanes and general purpose lanes, and both corridor-wide and for segments and trips that are currently problematic. In addition, to the extent that the requested changes require longer-term planning or additional funding, we request that the Department include the appropriate project proposals in its next budget request submittal to the Legislature.

We acknowledge that the ETL system is still quite new, that people are still adjusting to the current configurations, and that the Department has made several important changes to improve the situation for commuters along I-405. Nevertheless, pressing mobility issues remain. We believe that swift action, followed by a committed effort to tackle obstacles adversely affecting commutes, will yield improved results for the users of this critical corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Representative Judy Clibborn
41st Legislative District



Senator Steve Hobbs
44th Legislative District



Senator Rosemary McAuliffe
1st Legislative District



Representative Luis Moscoso
1st Legislative District



Representative Derek Stanford
1st Legislative District



Senator Marko Liias
21st Legislative District



Representative Tana Senn
41st Legislative District



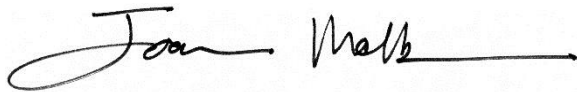
Representative Roger Goodman
45th Legislative District



Representative Larry Springer
45th Legislative District



Representative Patty Kuderer
48th Legislative District



Representative Joan McBride
48th Legislative District