

April 28, 2004

Councilmember Gary Nelson
Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Councilmember Nelson,

Attached is a List of projects for King County which I believe will make for a strong RTID ballot proposal.

King County Project List

I-405/SR 167 Corridor	\$2.4 Billion
Alaskan Way Viaduct*	1 Billion
Light Rail: University District to Sea-Tac Airport	1.1 Billion
SR 520**	1 Billion
SR 509	900 Million
Federal Way I-5 Interchange	100 Million
R8A***	80 Million
SR 99 BRT	80 Million
SR 522	40 Million

Total \$6.7 Billion

* ** ***

(Conditions on these projects are detailed below under "State Matching Funds")

Revenue Proposal

RTID	Sound Tran	Vehicle	Local	
Sales Tax	Sales Tax	Lic Fee	Gas Tax	MVET
.2	.1	\$75	0	.3
(raises \$6.7 billion in King County)				

Most Important Goals for RTID

The two most important goals for the RTID are:

- 1) It must pass at the polls
- 2) It must fulfill the local responsibility for providing funding for the failing Viaduct and 520, placing the matter before the Legislature.

In order to pass at the polls the polling suggests it must:

- 1) Ask the voters to accept a modest tax increase
- 2) Offer real progress on meeting transportation frustration through a balanced package of road and transit investments

This package is a compromise on many levels. Every participant in the RTID process in King County over the past three years will find many projects in this package they like, and several projects they don't like. It is a mix of transit and roads. It fixes chokepoints, repairs failing state infrastructure, and expands capacity. It fulfills much of Sen. MacDonald's vision in 6140 by focusing on highways of statewide significance, while building light rail. It addresses the projects which voters countywide want fixed, as they have told us repeatedly through ballot measures

and polls. While it is a smaller revenue level than has been discussed over the past three years, it is a significant amount of funding for new road construction in King County.

This package has been endorsed by the five members of the King County Council who have signed it, and by the Mayor of Seattle. The letter is consistent with principals endorsed by the Seattle City Council in their April 19th Resolution 30647, and is consistent with the principals endorsed by King County Executive Ron Sims in his April 15 letter to the RTID Executive Committee.

State Matching Funds

*In all proposals, the funding for the Viaduct and for 520 are conditioned on matching funds from the State. The proposal to locally raise \$2 billion for failing state highways is unprecedented.

Unlike 520 and other projects, the Viaduct cannot be meaningfully broken down into interim segments. There is a proposal to re-build the “flat” section of 99 west of SODO for \$1 billion, then hope the state funds the remaining \$1-2 billion at a later date. This makes no sense. When the aerial segment fails due to earthquake or old age, the re-built flat segment becomes at best a parking lot.

Therefore the WSDOT must assemble a full funding package for the Viaduct, including funds from state, federal, Port, and other local sources. The RTID contribution is not released until this package is assembled. The RTID contribution is not a downpayment.

Nor should these funds collected from taxpayers sit in a state bank account, unused for years. If funding for the Viaduct is not procured within five years, the RTID funds shall be allocated to rebuild the Seawall, **(\$700 Million)** and to pay for improvements to the two corridors approaching SR 99 – the Spokane Street Viaduct **(\$45 Million)** and Mercer Way. **(\$75 Million)**

**While the 520 Bridge is far more easily segmented, conditions should be imposed for the state to provide a match to complete a viable project. The Legislature could procure part of that match by providing for tolls on the 520 Bridge.

These matching provisions for the Viaduct and 520 allow this proposal to meet the requirement of 6140 that an entire project be concluded.

***R8A shall be added to the RTID list if the MOA is signed by all parties prior to the vote by the 25 County Council members of the RTID.

Councilmember Nelson, we submit these proposals for consideration by the RTID Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

Dwight Pelz
Carolyn Edmonds
Dow Constantine
Larry Gossett
Larry Phillips

