

# Pierce County

Office of the County Council

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**SHAWN BUNNEY**  
Chairman, Pierce County Council

May 12, 2005

The Honorable John Ladenburg  
President, Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, #500  
Seattle Washington 98104

Re: Regional Transportation Leadership Coordination

Dear Executive Ladenburg:

I am writing to ask for your leadership in bringing the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) together with the Executive Board of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) in order to ensure the region succeeds in passing a voter-approved transportation measure by the fall of 2006. We are at a critical junction in the future of the region, its transportation system, and the future economic prosperity of the region and the State. We need to fashion a good plan with very broad support across the region.

The RTID was established by the legislature to develop and propose a regional transportation investment plan and the financing to implement it. While we have informally coordinated our efforts with individual members of the PSRC and Sound Transit's Board of Directors, the RTID Executive Board voted at its May 12, 2005 meeting to formalize a process of working with both the PSRC and Sound Transit.

Specifically, the RTID Executive Board would like to work with the PSRC to establish a process where the Executive Board would meet with representatives from PSRC to review progress on a monthly basis and to troubleshoot key issues. We believe PSRC could serve as a valuable forum to engage with legislative and regional leadership in preparation for a successful ballot measure.

Major considerations include sizing a package, deciding on the revenue sources to use, and creating a balanced package with a potential Sound Transit joint ballot measure. Legal issues will need to be analyzed in greater depth such as district boundaries and compatibility of Sound Transit and RTID boundaries.

We have made significant progress in moving forward to accomplish this responsibility. We are now

in the process of reviewing and updating the transportation package the Executive Board drafted last spring. This spring, we set a timetable to complete our proposal by the end of this year and go to the ballot in November of 2006. We established a framework of transportation corridor investments to address safety, congestion, and traffic flow. This framework allowed the regional effort to be easily integrated with the new state transportation investment program that requires the Puget Sound region to provide regional funds by the end of 2006, or risk reallocation of state funding from the region and state's high priority projects.

We believe the best next step to coordinate our efforts is to meet and jointly develop a work plan that integrates our work at the regional level with that of the state. This work plan should map the way to reach a general consensus on direction and scope by December 2005 in order to work with the 2006 legislature on any necessary statutory changes to enable a successful ballot measure.

Thank you for your leadership and cooperation thus far on this challenging process. We look forward to your response and a successful partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn Bunney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Shawn Bunney, Executive Board Chair  
Regional Transportation Investment District

The Honorable Julia Patterson, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Calvin Goings  
The Honorable David Gossett  
The Honorable David Irons  
The Honorable Dwight Pelz  
The Honorable Gary Nelson

cc: The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor, Washington State  
Tom Fitzsimmons, Chief of Staff  
Louise Bray, Transportation Policy Chief  
Douglas MacDonald, Secretary of Transportation  
Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council  
Joni Earl, Executive Director, Sound Transit