

Pierce County

Office of the County Council

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2176
(253) 798-3635
FAX (253) 798-7509
TDD (253) 798-4018
1-800-992-2456
www.piercecountywa.org/council

SHAWN BUNNEY
Chairman, Pierce County Council

May 12, 2005

Steve Leahy
Co-Chair Transportation Partnership
c/o Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
1301 5th Avenue
Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98101

Rick Bender
Co-Chair Transportation Partnership
c/o Washington State Labor Council
314 1st West
Seattle, WA 98119

Bob Drewel
Co-Chair Transportation Partnership
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue
Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Regional Transportation Leadership Coordination

Dear Gentlemen:

I am writing to ask for your leadership in bringing the Transportation Partnership 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 Transportation Partnership, the RTID Executive Board voted at its May 12, 2005 meeting to formalize a process of working with you.

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. The business community must be involved early in the process to ensure the package that is placed before the voters has your support as well.

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 on this challenging process. We look forward to your response and a successful partnership.

Sincerely,



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