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Creating and sustaining a thriving economic climate that spurs job growth in every industry sector and every corner of Washington state is Governor Inslee's top priority. That's why we need to develop and approve a comprehensive, statewide transportation investment package during this legislative session.

Revenue package principles

Jobs. Investing in our state's transportation system will provide a near-term infusion of tens of thousands of family-wage jobs as well as long-term economic benefits through improved infrastructure. Addressing long commute times and building infrastructure for quicker freight movement will help us attract new jobs and ensure that we stay competitive in key industries such as aerospace.

Fix it first and maintain what we have. Today, such valuable public assets as roads of all kinds, bridges, ferries and buses are deteriorating due to insufficient investment in their maintenance, operations and preservation. Local governments face similar challenges with maintaining their streets, bike lanes and sidewalks. And demand for public transit continues to grow. We need to ensure the safety of the traveling public, take care of the system we have and address the backlog of projects that has built up over time.

Finish what we've started and invest in the future. While we have made down payments on several major projects that are critically important to Washington's economic vitality and safety, we have not invested the funds that are needed to complete them. These include the Columbia River Crossing in Vancouver, the State route 167/509 corridor in Pierce County, the Highway 520 floating bridge in King County and the Snohomish County freight corridor.

Governor Inslee's Principles for a 2013 Transportation Revenue Package

By working together, we can answer the challenge and approve a comprehensive transportation funding package this session that supports long-term economic vitality and puts people to work across the state.

Explore new ways of funding a balanced and multimodal system. We must recognize that our creativity is as important as concrete. A funding package should reflect that innovative spirit. We need to make the kind of investments that protect our transportation assets, preserve our natural environment, offer transportation choices and improve the quality of life for all citizens. This includes investments in roads, trains, light rail, buses, bike routes and other modes of transportation.

