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.
**Accountability action plan**

New investments must come with strong accountability measures. It’s important that we demonstrate to the public that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely. That’s why Governor Inslee is proposing a five-point accountability action plan that will:

- **Right-size projects** to live within our means
- **Use Lean management** to instill a culture of efficiency
- **Facilitate permitting** to support timely project completion
- **Increase transparency** to reduce errors and strengthen public confidence
- **Reward innovation** to build a 21st-century transportation system

For our state to compete in the global economy, we must create a Working Washington. 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.

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Gov. Inslee's economic development priorities:

- **Ensure our businesses have the world-class workforce they need.** Gov. Inslee is working with industry leaders and educators to strengthen our preschool through 12th grade education system, improve workforce training programs and make science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degree programs priorities at our colleges and universities.

- **Streamline state government to better support private-sector business growth.** Gov. Inslee will bring together all the state's trade and economic development activity into a new cabinet-level office. The Economic Competitiveness and Development Office will focus on recruiting, retaining and expanding businesses, work with businesses to reduce regulatory barriers and provide a single point-of-contact to help businesses with everything from site location to permitting.

- **Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.** There is enormous potential to create more jobs in Washington's innovative clean energy, life sciences and IT industries. Gov. Inslee is committed to more effectively leveraging the world-class research and development resources at our state universities and helping start-ups access R&D capital.

- **Increase the speed of Washington commerce.** Our businesses and their workers need to move products efficiently and reliably across our highways and railways, through our ports and in the air. Gov. Inslee is committed to addressing infrastructure improvements to provide long-term economic growth and a healthy quality of life.