



Gregory J. Nickels  
Mayor of Seattle

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PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Bob Drewel, Chair  
520 Tolling Implementation Committee  
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. ~~Drewel~~ Bob:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SR 520 Tolling Implementation Committee's work. The City of Seattle appreciates your efforts to help inform the region about the effects and impacts associated with tolling SR 520 and Interstate 90. I am writing to you today with comments related to the tolling of the Lake Washington bridges.

#### Decision to Toll

The SR 520 and the Interstate 90 floating bridges should be considered as integrated facilities for tolling purposes. The tolling of both bridges should be implemented concurrently to minimize traffic diversion and to treat communities equitably. Any tolling plan should support regional and local climate change goals by emphasizing the throughput of people and goods rather than vehicles.

#### Use of Tolling Revenue

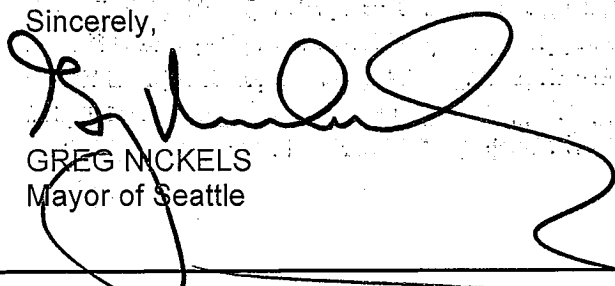
A portion of tolling revenue should be dedicated to both on-going and increased transit service on both bridges. Transit service should be considered part of the long-term operations budget for the SR 520 corridor. Dedicated transit revenue will: (1) offset the impacts of tolling to low-income groups; (2) help the region achieve regional climate protection goals; and (3) reduce the traffic diversion impacts onto local arterials. The remaining revenue should be used for planned improvement projects on both bridges.

#### Mitigation

As part of any tolling program, intelligent transportation systems should be installed at key decision points to better inform travelers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
GREG NICKELS  
Mayor of Seattle

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