



**CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**  
9611 SE 36th Street • Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732  
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November 21, 2008

Bob Drewel, Chair  
520 Tolling Implementation Committee  
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

Dear Bob:

Mercer Island citizens and the elected officials are resolute in their position that tolls must not be imposed on travel to and from their City. On Monday evening I spoke at the Tolling Committee's Open House here on the Island. I reported our staff's conclusion that if toll revenue attributable to travel to and from the Island is removed from the total tolling revenue in the "two-bridge" toll scenarios, the resulting revenue total fulfills the funding gap in all cases.

I want to reiterate that, without the full capability of the PSRC model, our calculations may not be considered as dependable as the Committee's modeling results. However, using the most conservative estimates and methods, every one of calculations yielded a revenue result above the median funding target of \$1.75 billion.

Obviously, Mercer Island would still appeal to the Tolling Committee to re-analyze Scenarios #3, #4, #8 and #9 removing tolls on travel to and from Mercer Island, as we requested on September 11, 2008 (letter attached). We are confident that the results will show revenues sufficient to fulfill the project funding needs estimated by the Legislature last spring.

If that is not possible given the Committee's timing constraints, as you indicated on Monday, we request that you give our contention a prominent place in your January report. We will be happy to discuss our assumptions, methods and calculations in greater detail with your Committee staff as they prepare the draft report. I am attaching a copy of my remarks from Monday evening, and I invite you to contact me or Linda Herzog to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jim Pearman, Mayor

cc:

Secretary Paula Hammond  
Commissioner Dick Ford  
David Hopkins, WSDOT

Attachments: Sept. 11, 2008 letter from Mayor Pearman to Committee Chair Drewel  
Mayor Pearman statement at the Nov. 17, 2008 Open House





September 11, 2008

Bob Drewel, Chair  
520 Tolling Implementation Committee  
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

Dear Bob,

The Mercer Island City Council has discussed the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee's findings from analysis of the initial tolling scenarios. We very much appreciate your public information process, and especially the Open House here on Mercer Island on August 13. Our citizens have been well informed, and many have provided us feedback on your early modeling conclusions.

At our City Council meeting Tuesday night the Council adopted a policy pertaining to roadway tolling in general, and decided to ask the Committee for additional analyses. Both the policy position and the new data requests are summarized below.

Additionally, Mercer Island is preparing policy statements relating directly to the impact on Mercer Island citizens, workers and visitors of tolling Interstate 90. Those I-90-specific policy positions are being fashioned into a Resolution which will be before the Council for adoption within the next several weeks. If the additional information we are requesting here becomes available by the time of that meeting, we will incorporate it into our continuing policy discussions.

Mercer Island wishes to submit this statement of policy regarding roadway tolling:

*The Mercer Island City Council supports tolling to fund large transportation capital projects as long as all tolls collected are identified for the construction, maintenance and improvement of the facility being tolled.*

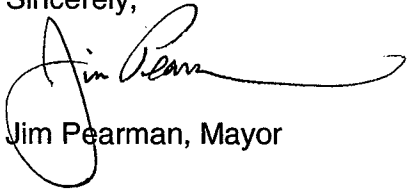
The Mercer Island City Council also requests that the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee:

- Prepare full traffic forecast and financial analyses for the following two variations of all past and future scenarios that include tolling on I-90:
  - (a) without tolls being paid for travel to and from Mercer Island, and
  - (b) such that any tolling on I-90 would allow toll-free travel to and from Mercer Island in at least one direction.

- Create and test a scenario that tolls the 520 bridge along with the I-405 and I-5 connections between 520 and I-90.
- Determine what 520-only toll rates and timing will generate all the funding needed for the 520 project.

Thank you for incorporating our policy statements into the feedback you will be passing on to the Legislature. We also appreciate the opportunity to submit the above requests for additional analysis. It is our intention and our hope that the new information will support not only our own deliberations about I-90 operations, but also the region-wide effort to determine the best way to use tolling to help pay for the 520 project while maintaining the efficiency of the region's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Pearman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Pearman, Mayor

cc: Mercer Island Council Members  
Representative Judy Clibborn  
Representative Fred Jarrett  
PSRC Government Relations Director Rick Olson  
City Manager Rich Conrad  
Interim Deputy City Manager Linda Herzog