



South County Area Transportation Board

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December 9, 2008

SR 520 Tolling Implementation Committee
Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council
Dick Ford, Washington State Transportation Commission
Paula Hammond, Washington State Secretary of Transportation
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Members of the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee:

On behalf of the South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBd), which represents 16 cities and all of unincorporated South King County, with a population of 650,000, we are writing to provide the Committee additional comments regarding the tolling issues that you are considering.

SCATBd has reviewed the results of the analysis that has been conducted for nine tolling scenarios. We are concerned that diversion due to tolling in the cross-lake corridor, especially if I-90 is tolled, would seriously affect traffic levels on I-405 south of Bellevue. I-405 is widely recognized as one of the most congested freeways in the state. We believe that additional trips diverted from SR 520 and I-90 due to tolls would not only impact I-405 but would also result in spillover effects on our South King County jurisdictions' local roadway network.

In August we wrote to express our concern that the Stage 2 I-405 project between SR 169 and I-5 might be delayed. We were gratified to learn that it is proceeding, and we thank you for your help in ensuring that this important project is completed.

At this time, SCATBd would like to emphasize the need to mitigate the effects of diverted traffic in the I-405 corridor south of I-90. The analysis presented to you on November 10 confirms our belief that tolling both bridges would result in more traffic on I-405 South: "Peak period diversion to I-405 at Renton is greater in two-bridge scenarios, with volume increases reaching 8%" (page 19 of PowerPoint presentation). The information released on November 10 also shows that the scenarios in which both bridges are tolled would generate more than the \$1.5 - \$2.0 billion target amount needed to complete the SR 520 bridge. We also believe that the planned but unfunded projects in the I-405 corridor, including additional lanes and the full interchange improvements at SR 167, are critical to ensuring mobility throughout the corridor, particularly after tolling begins. Therefore we suggest that a portion of the funds generated in excess of the amount needed for the 520 bridge construction be used as mitigation to help address the funding needed for these I-405 South projects.

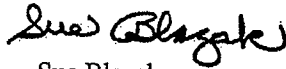
SR 520 Tolling Implementation Committee
December 9, 2008
Page 2

SCATBd respectfully requests that your report to the Legislature address these concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Suzette Cooke
Mayor, City of Kent
Chair



Sue Blazak
Councilmember, City of Burien
Vice Chair

South County Area Transportation Board

cc: South King County Legislators
SCATBd Members
David Dye, WSDOT