

Resolution # **TRANSPORTATION FOR WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS infrastructure investment is a vitally important factor in ensuring that our economy will create jobs, spur economic growth and improve the safety and health of our communities; and

WHEREAS completion of critical transportation projects including bus rapid transit, passenger rail, and freight rail in Washington State; and investing in local workers, state-approved apprenticeship programs, and businesses with the technical know-how for manufacturing and constructing transit, will create a new transportation economy that will spur economic and job growth throughout the rest of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS approximately 156 Washington State bridges are “structurally deficient” and pose a significant economic risk, as well as a safety risk to the public, as illustrated by the Skagit River Bridge collapse on I-5; and

WHEREAS three core transportation principles form a crucial foundation for building a 21st century transportation system:

1. Fixing our crumbling bridges and roads immediately, which cannot be put off any longer; and
2. Completing strategic projects that increase freight mobility, including the Gateway to the Sound and the “last mile” for Highways 167 and 509; and
3. Funding transit operations and capital improvements; and

WHEREAS data from spending under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) shows that repair work on roads and bridges generates 16% more jobs per dollar than new bridge and road construction, and public transportation investments generate 31% more jobs per dollar than new construction of roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS timely maintenance saves dollars; and

WHEREAS the Connecting Washington Taskforce estimates the state’s ten-year transportation needs at \$50.3 billion; and

WHEREAS the King County Democrats are committed to the “Buy America” provisions in federal transportation funding; and

WHEREAS the King County Democrats support enforcing state requirements that state and local contracting agencies and subcontractors procure transportation construction and operating equipment manufactured within Washington State, which has already resulted in a local contract by a union shop to build streetcars in Washington State; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Democrats hereby endorse the following transportation principles:

1. Fix our broken infrastructure and save lives;
2. Complete strategic projects to increase freight mobility;
3. Invest in transit operations and capital; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the King County Democrats will work to proactively develop and lobby for a balanced comprehensive statewide transportation package that addresses these principles; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the King County Democrats and their respective LDs call upon all elected officials to support a fully funded and integrated transportation package to ensure that Washington State remains competitive in trade both nationally and internationally.

Adopted September 24, 2013 by the King County Democratic Central Committee