

Resolution Concerning SB 5987-SB5997, the 2015 Senate Transportation Package

Whereas the Republican-controlled State Senate passed a transportation package (SB 5987 through SB 5997) appropriating \$10.5 billion to be spent between now and 2031 as follows: \$1.2 billion for highway maintenance, \$1.3 billion for transit (including ferries and passenger trains), and the remaining \$8 billion for highways; and, *in addition*, authorized Sound Transit to seek local-voter approval of \$11 billion for the next phase of its light rail system; and

Whereas Sound Transit has identified a need for \$15 billion in funding to complete that next phase of light rail construction, leaving an authorization shortfall of \$4 billion; and

Whereas Sound Transit, Everett and Tacoma leaders have urged the Legislature to authorize the additional funds needed for completion of light rail to Paine Field, Everett, Tacoma and Redmond, to provide alternative transportation for the badly congested I-5, SR 520 and I-90 corridors; and

Whereas some of the Senate's bills contain destructive provisions that would:

- eliminate important funding for transit projects if the Low Carbon Fuel Standard is adopted by the Department of Ecology (SB 5987);
- divert, to highway construction projects, sales tax money that is badly needed for K-12 schools and other programs dependent on the general fund (SB 5990);
- divert funds from the "environmental legacy" account, which supports local government programs for cleanup of environmental damage and hazardous waste, to highway storm water and fish passage projects that should be paid for out of highway funds (SB 5991); and
- exempt highway projects from the need to acquire certain permits from local governments (SB 5994);

Therefore, be it resolved that we call on the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives to:

1. Counter or eliminate all the Republican provisions hostile to transit and the environment; and
2. Move forward with a House bill leading to a final law that will:
 - a. Support the Governor's clean fuels program;
 - b. Increase the authorization for Sound Transit's third phase, as well as funding for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians;
 - c. Provide more funding for maintenance of our existing infrastructure, especially aging bridges;
 - d. Preserve funding for important environmental protection and cleanup programs;
 - e. Preserve sales tax revenue for K-12 schools and other general-fund-dependent programs; and
 - f. Maintain the authority of local governments to carry out their planning functions; and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and our representatives in Olympia.

Adopted _____ by _____