



A Resolution Concerning SB 5987 – SB 5997, the 2015 Draft Transportation Package

WHEREAS, the Transportation package (SB 5987-SB5997) that recently passed the Republican controlled State Senate appropriated \$10.5 billion to be spent between now and 2031, of which \$1.2 billion is for highway maintenance and \$1.3 billion is for transit (including the ferries and passenger trains), and authorized Sound Transit to seek local voter approval of \$11 billion for the next phase of light rail; and

WHEREAS, of the highway funds, \$1.6 billion was appropriated to finishing the west end of the SR 520 new toll bridge, \$3.5 million was appropriated to finishing the Eastlake noise wall along I-5 and of the transit funds, \$8 million was appropriated for the Madison Valley Rapid Ride expansion; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has identified a need for \$15 billion in funding to complete the next phase of construction; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit, Everett and Tacoma leaders have urged the legislature to authorize the additional funds to allow completion of the light rail service to Paine Field, Everett, Tacoma and Redmond to provide alternative transportation to the already badly congested I-5, 520 and I-90; and

WHEREAS, some of the bills

- contain destructive language that would eliminate important funding for transit projects if the previously-authorized Low Carbon Fuel Standard is adopted by the Department of Ecology (SB 5987);
- divert sales tax money, badly needed for support of the public schools and other programs dependent on the general fund, to highway construction projects (SB 5990);
- divert funds from the "environmental legacy" account that supports local government environmental damage and hazardous waste cleanup projects 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 the 30th Legislative District Democrats Organization calls on the Democratic Caucus in the Washington State House of Representatives to:

1. Counter all the Republican transit and environmentally hostile provisions of the Senate bills with elimination of these odious provisions; and
2. Move forward with provisions in the House bill that would produce a final legislation that would:
 - 2.1. Support the Governor's clean fuels program;
 - 2.2. Increase funding for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians, especially Sound Transit's third phase;
 - 2.3. Provide more funding for maintenance of our existing infrastructure, especially aging bridges;
 - 2.4. Not divert funds from important environmental protection and cleanup programs;
 - 2.5. Not rob sales tax revenue from the general fund, which is the funding source for the public schools; and
 - 2.6. Not restrict the authority of local governments to carry out their planning functions.

And we direct that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, our representatives in Olympia and the Washington State Democratic and the King County Democratic Central Committees.

Approved on April 1, 2015 by the 30th District Democrats

Tim Burns

Tim Burns, Chair