



Keep the promise and green light a project that's ready to go!

February 24, 2015

Dear members of the Washington State Senate,

On behalf of the 509 Completion Coalition, we would like to thank you for your work in developing a compromise transportation revenue package proposal, and urge you to continue your work to pass the revenue package out of the Senate as soon as possible.

The 509 Completion Coalition consists of stakeholders from local governments, businesses, and labor organizations throughout the south Puget Sound. Investment in transportation infrastructure is necessary for our state to compete in a global economy. Without this investment, we will lose ground in the competition for innovation and business - leading to a decline in new business opportunities, lost jobs, and ultimately a decline in revenue for the State and local governments that often precipitates a downward economic spiral.

The SR 509 completion project finishes a corridor that was started decades ago. The project will add 12 lane miles of capacity to Interstate 5, improve air quality, and eliminate delays that add costs to our freight-haulers. One area freight distribution business owner estimates that delays during the afternoon rush hour *alone* has cost his company nearly \$100,000 per year.

The Puget Sound Gateway project is the most impactful economic development project in Washington. Studies of the project's economic impact indicate that it will have a return on investment ratio of five-to-one, and will provide \$34 million in state and local revenue in the next 20 years, while adding more than 17,000 new jobs to the Washington State economy. Adding jobs and business to our state has broad benefits. The infusion of millions of dollars in additional revenue for local and state government can be used to fund education, health care, and needed social programs; investment in transportation directly influences our ability to fund other necessary operations of government now and into the future.

Once again, thank you very much for the work that you have done to come to an agreement that will move our State in the right direction. We look forward to working with you to make a transportation revenue package, and completion of State Route 509, a reality.

Sincerely,

Dave Kaplan
Mayor
City of Kent

Suzette Cooke
Mayor
City of SeaTac

Tony Anderson
Deputy Mayor
City of Des Moines



TimeFor509now

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John Creighton
Commissioner
Port of Seattle

Kathryn Campbell
Councilmember
City of SeaTac

Carol Kolson
President/CEO
SWKC Chamber of Commerce

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