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Driving Our Future

Creating and sustaining a thriving economic climate that spurs job growth in every industry sector and every corner of Washington is Governor Jay Inslee's top priority. That's why we need to develop and approve a comprehensive, statewide transportation investment package in 2014. The Governor is working with the Legislature to broker a bipartisan deal and approve a comprehensive, statewide transportation investment package. A new package would raise approximately \$12 billion for vital transportation projects across the state, including state Route 520, SR 167/509, North-South Freeway in Spokane, Interstate 405 widening and I-5 improvements at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

This package incorporates the following elements to ensure that the people of Washington realize the greatest value for their tax dollars:



Safety

Every day, hundreds of thousands of people use our transportation system to get to work, to get to school and to get back home again. A well-maintained transportation system is a safer transportation system, and that's a top priority for the Governor.

Without a transportation investment package, our infrastructure is going to deteriorate more rapidly. For example, without investments, our state will face a significant decrease in the maintenance budget for bridges and roads in the next two years. In that time frame, 71 additional bridges will become structurally deficient — some bridges may even need to be closed for safety reasons. Already, the American Society of Civil Engineers has determined that 366 bridges in our state are structurally deficient (need a significant repair such as a new deck or truss work) and 1,693 are functionally obsolete (don't meet current user needs like wider lanes or ability to bear heavier loads).

Jobs

A comprehensive transportation package will deliver an adrenaline shot to Washington's economy with thousands of good, family-wage jobs in our construction sector. Men and women in hard hats and safety vests are ready to get to work on projects across the state. But the package goes beyond those initial construction jobs. It offers long-term beneficial effects to our economy.

Boeing is deciding where to build the 777X. We want the company to build it right here in Washington because nobody builds better airplanes than we do, and the aerospace industry supports tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. But if we're going to build the next-generation 777, we can't have airplane parts stuck in traffic on I-5 or I-405. It's important to Boeing, its suppliers, its workers and to businesses across Washington that we invest in our freight corridors. This is truly a statewide issue, because our farmers and orchardists in eastern Washington need to get their produce to ports on the western side of the state, too.

Traffic relief

Just as it's important to move goods quickly and efficiently, we have to be able to move people quickly and efficiently. This is a quality of life issue. This is about moms and dads who want to spend less time stuck in traffic and more time at their kids' soccer games. This is about people who would rather be sitting at the dinner table with their families than sitting in their cars during rush hour. By investing in the future and finishing the projects we've promised, we can provide traffic relief and get more people where they need to be more quickly and safely.

Accountability

Finally, the taxpayers of this state deserve the accountability measures that will accompany this comprehensive transportation package.

We will ensure every dollar is invested as wisely as possible, and we'll do that by right-sizing projects, using Lean management, facilitating permitting and rewarding innovation.

By working together, we can answer the challenge and approve a comprehensive transportation funding package this legislative session that includes the following solutions:

Fix it first and maintain what we have

Today, such valuable public assets as roads of all kinds, bridges, ferries and buses are deteriorating due to insufficient investment in their maintenance, operation and preservation. Local governments face similar challenges with maintaining their streets, bike lanes and sidewalks. And all this is occurring as demand for public transit continues to grow. We need to ensure the safety of the traveling public, take care of the system we have and address the backlog of projects that has built up over time.

Finish what we've started and invest in the future

While we have made down payments on several major projects that are critically important to Washington's economic vitality and safety, we have not invested the funds that are needed to complete them. These include the SR 167/509 corridor in Pierce County, Highway 520 floating bridge in King County, North-South Freeway in Spokane and Snohomish County freight corridor.

Explore new ways of funding a balanced and multimodal system

We must recognize that our creativity is as important as concrete. This funding package reflects that innovative spirit. We need to make the kind of investments that protect our transportation assets, preserve our natural environment, offer transportation choices and improve the quality of life for all citizens. This includes investments in roads, trains, light rail, buses, bike routes and other modes of transportation.

Follow accountability action plan

New investments must come with strong accountability measures. It's important that we demonstrate to the public that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely. That's why Governor Inslee has proposed a five-point accountability action plan that will:

- » Right-size projects to live within our means.
- » Use Lean management to instill a culture of efficiency.
- » Facilitate permitting to support timely project completion.
- » Increase transparency to reduce errors and strengthen public confidence.
- » Reward innovation to build a 21st century transportation system.

For our state to compete in the global economy, we must create a Working Washington. By working together, we can answer the challenge and approve a comprehensive transportation funding package this year that supports long-term economic vitality and puts people to work across the state.