

RESOLUTION R-4999

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE IN 2013 AND PASS A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PACKAGE.

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council supports legislation that promotes the City Council's goals and protects the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council adopted State Legislative Priorities for 2013 that include support for providing state and local transportation revenue to maintain infrastructure investments and complete projects that enhance economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, a healthy transportation system is a critical foundation of our state and local economies and our quality of life, as well as our global position as the nation's most trade-dependent state; and

WHEREAS, Washington State's transportation system is suffering from disrepair, with a backlog of maintenance and preservation needs, and data showing that without any new investments more than half the pavement on our state roads and highways will be in poor condition by 2023; and

WHEREAS, failing roads and bridges, congested highway corridors, and bottlenecked interchanges undermine the mobility of vehicles, buses, and freight-carriers to transport people and goods; and

WHEREAS, the Connecting Washington Task Force released a report in early 2012, identifying \$50 billion in unfunded transportation needs and recommending an investment of \$21 billion in state funding during the next ten years for maintenance, preservation, and strategic investments; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland has \$249 million in unfunded street, bridge and sidewalk needs and these projects are critical for the safety and economic development of the City of Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, investing in maintaining and upgrading our transportation system is a positive step the Legislature can take to catalyze construction jobs, enhance freight mobility for our Ports, and create a pathway for retaining and growing new jobs for key industry sectors; and

WHEREAS, through SHB 1954, SHB 1955 and related bills, the 2013 Washington State Legislature is considering a 12-year, \$9.5 billion package of transportation infrastructure investments; and

WHEREAS, this package would provide critical funding for key highway corridor projects throughout the state, including the I-405/NE

132nd Street Interchange ramps in Kirkland, previously authorized by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the proposed transportation package would also provide a direct gas tax distribution that would provide new funding each year for the City of Kirkland to maintain local roadways and arterials and to leverage existing funding; and

WHEREAS, the package also includes local transportation financing options that cities and counties can submit to their voters for transportation improvements in their communities including Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, the transportation package would invest in grant programs that are vital for cities and counties, including the Transportation Investment Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), "Complete Streets," Safe Routes to Schools, and Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety; and

WHEREAS, the package also includes direct funding allocations for transit agencies, including King County Metro Transit, that would otherwise have to make drastic cuts in routes which carry people to work sites and serve local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington may call the legislature back into special session in 2013 to discuss this transportation package or similar proposals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The Kirkland City Council strongly supports a comprehensive statewide transportation investment package, including direct funding and funding options for local governments.

Section 2. The Kirkland City Council urges the Governor to convene a special legislative session in 2013 to enact a balanced transportation investment package to create jobs, relieve congestion, support our businesses, and maintain our quality of life.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 17th day of September, 2013.

Signed in authentication thereof this 17th day of September, 2013.


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk