



June 11, 2015

Dear Members of the Pierce County Legislative Delegation:

As co-chairs of the Regional Access Mobility Partnership (RAMP), we are writing to remind lawmakers that passage of a statewide transportation revenue package, along with meaningful transportation reforms, is a top priority for the citizens of Pierce County this session.

RAMP is a regional coalition including business, labor, public and private organizations and citizens dedicated to improved mobility in the South Sound and Washington State. Our mission is to ensure a healthy regional economy associated with the development of an effective, efficient transportation system and the resources to sustain it.

It has been more than a decade since the state adopted a comprehensive, statewide transportation funding package. As Washington's and Pierce County's economy continue to recover from the great Recession, a statewide investment strategy will improve mobility for the freight sector to deliver goods to market, help the labor market to get to work and improve the overall quality of life of Washington's citizens as they move about in their daily lives. Of particular importance is the proposed Puget Sound Gateway project, which will complete State Route 167 in Pierce County and SR 509 in King County.

The progress made to date on a statewide transportation revenue and reform package is extremely encouraging. At the same time we recognize the challenges regarding the operating budget and fully funding education. We encourage lawmakers to continue negotiating both items during the special session and find a pathway that accomplishes and moves our state forward in both areas.

You and your colleagues have created the opportunity to do something truly remarkable—completing projects that have been in the making for decades, while at the same time creating thousands of construction and long-term jobs associated with international trade. Passage of a statewide transportation package is too important to fail.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive
RAMP Co-Chair

Tom Pierson
Tacoma-Pierce Co. Chamber of Commerce CEO
RAMP Co-Chair

Don Meyer
Port of Tacoma Commissioner
RAMP Co-Chair