

March 4, 2022

Representative Jinkins, Speaker of the House

Representative Sullivan, Majority Leader

Representative J.T. Wilcox, Minority Leader

Representative Fey, Chair, Transportation
Committee

Representative Barkis, Ranking member,
Transportation Committee

Representative Ormsby, Chair, Appropriations
Committee

Representative Stokesbary, Ranking member,
Appropriations Committee

Representative Tharinger, Chair, Capital Budget
Committee

Representative Steele, Ranking member, Capital
Budget Committee

Senator Billig, Majority Leader

Senator Braun, Minority Leader

Senator Liias, Chair, Transportation Committee

Senator Saldaña, Vice Chair, Transportation
Committee

Senator King, Ranking member, Transportation
Committee

Senator Rolfes, Chair, Ways & Means Committee

Senator Wilson, Ranking member, Ways & Means
Committee

Senator Frockt, Vice Chair Capital, Ways & Means
Committee

Senator Robinson, Vice Chair Operating &
Revenue, Ways & Means Committee

Senator Honeyford, Ranking minority member
Capital, Ways & Means Committee

Legislative leaders,

Washington's transportation and infrastructure system is vital to the wellbeing of our communities and the statewide economy. As we all know, there is a significant need for transportation investments across the state. We can no longer wait to make meaningful investments or postpone needed maintenance and preservation. If we do, costs will continue to balloon along with the risk of damaging system failures that harm our communities, environment, and economy.

The AWC membership calls for a robust and equitable approach to transportation investments but opposes the proposed large sweep of the Public Works Assistance Account. While we commend you for addressing the state's transportation needs in the Move Ahead WA package, we also know that our system is an integrated one that relies on both state and locally owned transportation assets. Moreover, transportation infrastructure is just one piece of an interconnected infrastructure system that includes drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and other basic needs. For this reason, the PWAA is a foundational source of funding that provides essential support for critical infrastructure projects.

In recent years the PWAA has awarded funds for projects like the Fairview Ave N. Bridge replacement in Seattle, wastewater treatment plant facility improvements in North Bend, and repairs to the water system of Malden after the 2020 Babb Road wildfire. However, while these critical projects have received funding support from the PWAA, many other projects have not. This is because the needs far outpace availability of funds. Currently, the Public Works Board has \$1 billion in vital projects that can complete construction within the next four years only if funding is secured.

This year, cities identified statewide transportation investments, including funding for local preservation and maintenance needs, as a legislative priority. We also identified traditional infrastructure investments as a priority, given the many ongoing needs that are continually deferred during difficult economic periods. We know that Washington's interconnected infrastructure system must be well maintained and preserved for a strong economy and healthy communities. Thus, cities support an approach that invests in the whole transportation system while preserving local ability to fund other infrastructure needs.

We understand the challenge of balancing investments in transportation with limited transportation revenues. However, the state is in a unique position to meet this call, as revenue forecasts demonstrate significant growth and economic recovery. Given the close ties between the state's transportation system and locally owned infrastructure, we urge you to look for options that preserve investments in both. Cities are a committed partner in furthering the success of our state and we ask that the Legislature to work with us on transportation and infrastructure investments that support Washington's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Pascal, Councilmember, Kirkland
Carol Benson, Mayor, Black Diamond
Randy Hinchliffe, City Administrator, Waitsburg
Mike Warren, City Administrator, Ephrata
Maria Celaya, Mayor, Mattawa
Brian Berghout, Councilmember, Mattawa
Silvia Barajas, Councilmember, Mattawa
Wendy Lopez, Councilmember, Mattawa
Eva Warren, Mayor, Lone
Jeff Brauns, Public Works Director, Newcastle
Matthew Lundh, Councilmember, Cle Elum
Penny Sweet, Mayor, Kirkland
Leana Kinley, City Administrator, Stevenson
Kevin Hester, Mayor, Nooksack
Glenn A. Johnson, Mayor, Pullman
Julia Johnson, Mayor, Sedro-Woolley
Michael Lilliquist, Councilmember, Bellingham
Shawn R. Logan, Mayor, Othello
Mark Kulaas, Councilmember, Wenatchee
George Hurst, Council President, Lynnwood

Fred Brink, Mayor Pro Tem, West Richland
Ryan Johnstone, Public Services Director, Bonney Lake
Brent Kirk, City Manager, Granite Falls
James Fletcher, Mayor, Cashmere
Chris Roberts, Councilmember, Shoreline
Bryan Wahl, Mayor Pro Tem, Mountlake Terrace
Denise Varner, Councilmember, Okanogan
Iris Guzman, Councilmember, SeaTac
Kyle Moore, City Manager's Office, SeaTac
Mike Todd, Public Works Director, Mill Creek
Pat Hulcey, Councilmember, Fife
Salim Nice, Mayor, Mercer Island
David Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor, Mercer Island
Wendy Weiker, Councilmember, Mercer Island
Angela Birney, Mayor, Redmond
Jon Amundson, City Manager, Richland
Becky Erickson, Mayor, Poulsbo
Mike Rizzitiello, City Administrator, College Place
Daryl Eidinger, Mayor, Edgewood
Kathleen Allstot, Councilmember, Ephrata

Anthony E Ketchum, Mayor, Chehalis
Christopher Gruner, Councilmember, Enumclaw
Edward Wood, Councilmember, University Place
Jill Weismann, Councilmember, Cheney
William Auvil, Councilmember, Oakesdale
Adair Hawkins, Councilmember, Carnation
Jill Boudreau, Mayor, Mount Vernon
Jeni Woock, Councilmember, Gig Harbor
Dontae Payne, Councilmember, Olympia
Jim Cooper, Councilmember, Olympia
Cheryl Selby, Mayor, Olympia
Clark Gilman, Mayor Pro Tem, Olympia
Bill Sangster, Public Works Director, Ephrata
Deanna Martinez, Councilmember, Moses Lake
Mark Hulst, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Steve Shepro, Councilmember, Stanwood
Dani Madrone, Councilmember, Olympia
Abby Gribi, City Administrator, Newport
Darren Robb, Councilmember, Stanwood
Nancy Backus, Mayor, Auburn
Tom Merrill, City Council President, Snohomish
Ingrid Gaub, Public Works Director, Auburn
Traci Buxton, Deputy Mayor, Des Moines
Nigel Herbig, Mayor, Kenmore
Amy Ockerlander, Mayor, Duvall
Jeff Johnson, Mayor, Lake Forest Park
Kate Kruller, Councilmember, Tukwila
Phillip Hill, City Administrator, Lake Forest Park
Jessica Forsythe, Council President, Redmond
Jim Ribail, Deputy Mayor, Carnation
Lorri Bodi, Councilmember, Lake Forest Park
Jan Molinaro, Mayor, Enumclaw
Lindsay Jennifer, Mayor, Ridgefield
Susan Honda, Deputy Mayor, Federal Way
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor, Bellingham
Allan Ekberg, Mayor, Tukwila

Semra Riddle, Councilmember, Lake Forest Park
Tom French, Deputy Mayor, Lake Forest Park
Don Vanney, Councilmember, Arlington
Cathleen Koch, City Administrator, Connell
Rob Putaansuu, Mayor, Port Orchard
Alex Kovach, Mayor, Soap Lake
Carolyn Hope, Interim City Manager, Burien
Dave L. Rudat, City Manager, Sammamish
Robert Baggett, Councilmember, Auburn
Christie Malchow, Mayor, Sammamish
Linda Newing, Mayor, Newcastle
Jerry Phillips, Mayor, Long Beach
Betsy Wilkerson, Councilmember, Spokane
Adam Lincoln, Deputy City Manager, Pasco
Yến Huỳnh, Councilmember, Olympia
Kent Keel, Councilmember, University Place
Bob Harrision, City Manager, Yakima
Jake Jacobson, Councilmember, Mercer Island
Jason Whalen, Mayor, Lakewood
Michael Alvarez, Mayor, Richland
Kim Lik, Mayor, Carnation
Todd McDaniel, City Administrator, Omak
Bob Baggett, Councilmember, Auburn
Steve Worthington, Mayor, University Place
James Jeyaraj, Deputy Mayor, Auburn
Matt Mahoney, Mayor, Des Moines
Cindy Gagne, Mayor, Omak
Kali Clark, Deputy Mayor, Sammamish
Amy Lam, Councilmember, Sammamish
Karen Moran, Councilmember, Sammamish
Kent Treen, Councilmember, Sammamish
Ken Gamblin, Councilmember, Sammamish
Karen Howes, Councilmember, Sammamish
Peter Kwon, Councilmember, SeaTac
Chris Stearns, Councilmember, Auburn
Kate Baldwin, Councilmember, Auburn