COMMENT FORM – King County Bridges and Roads Task Force

Meeting Date: Oct 14, 2015

Name (first and last): Mark Johnston

Affiliation (agency/company/organization – if any): urban unincorporated King County (Skyway)

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Please write your comment in the space below:

My testimony concerns the need for equitable relief from current and recent KCDOT Roads revenue allocation in urban unincorporated areas, such as my community of Skyway.

For many years now, approaching decades, the policies of KCDOT and the great recession funding curve have left communities like Skyway without significant attention to roads capital funding. This is more than ironic to citizens whose total contribution to the King County Roads Fund has been on the order of $30 million over the past decade.

King County has a goal for urban unincorporated areas like White Center and Skyway to become part of a city. However, Renton's policy for annexation makes it clear that can't happen for Skyway if existing residents' services must be reduced in order to facilitate the annexation. Renton's testimony has been that Skyway "has many challenges, such as neglected infrastructure... that require many resources to address."

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These needs are also exacerbated by county policy in other areas. For example about 15 years ago, the county agreed to a low income apartment development where thousands of people now live. This development is located on a state highway where the speed limit is 50 mph. ~~other than the~~ Many residents rely on public transportation, but in the time since these apartments were constructed no sidewalk infrastructure has been built to accomodate this facility. Neither was any commercial space built in to the project. To get home from the grocery store, residents are forced onto the shoulder of this 50 mph road. It's not made a blip on the community's Transportation Needs Report capital plan from KCDOT.

Basic fairness dictates the tax revenues generated by a community should, in part, be available for its own transportation necessities. This task force's work will be incomplete if these needs are not accounted for in your final recommendations.