

SeaShore Transportation Forum

December 6, 2024

Honorable Legislators,

We are writing you as the membership of the SeaShore Transportation Forum (SeaShore). SeaShore serves as a space to discuss transportation issues affecting north King and south Snohomish Counties and to advocate for transportation improvements to improve mobility, transportation choices, safer streets and roadways, and address climate change.

Although most, if not all, of our member jurisdictions each pass a legislative agenda that speaks to the individual needs of their cities, we firmly believe in the value of developing a unified legislative agenda that speaks to the consensus of cities in north King and south Snohomish Counties. In this year's SeaShore legislative agenda, we chose collectively to urge bold action on climate change as it is critical we address this quickly. We also placed an emphasis on equity in transportation investments so that we are addressing the needs of all people.

SeaShore also feels strongly that our region needs to address its aging infrastructure and supports new funding sources for both transit and road investment, at both a state and local level.

As a region that leads in technology and innovation, we believe our state can be a national leader in making our streets and roads safer, addressing climate change, and developing a transportation system that supports non-motorized transportation options, which helps everyone's quality of life.

We look forward to meeting with you during this year's legislative session to discuss our priorities and we thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing the 2025 SeaShore Transportation Forum Legislative Agenda.

Sincerely,

Co-Chair Larry Goldman
Lake Forest Park Councilmember
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Co-Chair Eben Pobee
Shoreline Councilmember
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On behalf of the four member jurisdictions and other affiliated cities of SeaShore
Lake Forest Park, Seattle, Shoreline, King County, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Kenmore,
Bothell, and Woodinville

SEASHORE 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The SeaShore Transportation Forum ("SeaShore") is a body of elected officials and professional staff from jurisdictions in north King and south Snohomish Counties that meets monthly to advise the Puget Sound Regional Council and King County on awards of transportation-related grants, to advocate for transportation needs in our region, and to provide a forum for sharing information and coordinating projects.

Participants include the cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville; King County; Snohomish County; Community Transit; and Sound Transit.

Corridors and Infrastructure

- We support the Revive I-5 project as necessary to maintain this important highway. However, given the scope and duration of repairs, it is more than a simple maintenance project and requires a mitigation plan including funding support. We're especially concerned because the FIFA world cup is coming to our region in 2026.
- Support present and future investment in planning and maintenance of the entire SR-104 corridor between SR-522 and the ferry terminal in Edmonds. This critical corridor suffers significant deterioration and needs increased investment.
- Support full funding for the 175th Street corridor to ensure safety and freight mobility, and to provide multi-modal options that support transit access and reliability.
- Provide greater funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects in accordance with Complete Streets principles.
 - Invest in critical pedestrian infrastructure north of 85th Street in Seattle, particularly along Aurora Avenue.
 - Make improvements to the Interurban Trail, which connects north King County to south Snohomish County, particularly the development of safer and more comfortable passage across State Route 104 between Shoreline and Edmonds
 - Support a grade separated crossing at SR 522 and SR 104 that will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and increase connectivity between the Burke Gilman and Interurban Trails in Lake Forest Park.

Funding Mechanisms

- **Local Revenue Options** - Create new local revenue options for cities and counties to pay for local transportation needs. The PSRC Regional Transportation Plan notes \$18B of unmet need within cities and \$5B within counties across the region. Potential tools could include delivery charges, heavy vehicle surcharges, or revising the current 1% property tax lid.
- **Transit** – We urge the Legislature to maintain and expand funding for local, regional, and high- capacity transit, including alternative services like commute pools, vanpools, and other first mile/last mile innovations. Consider expanded local transit service in all new transportation funding mechanisms.
- **Road Usage Charge** – Institute an equitable road usage charge (RUC) to generate necessary revenue to replace the gas tax, fund the state's long-term transportation needs, including multimodal connections and introduce revenue flexibility.
- **Public Works Board** – Adequately fund this financing tool to support transportation

infrastructure needs.

- Provide funding support to address **local fish passage barriers**.

New Technologies, Modes, and Strategies

- **Safety Projects** – Prioritize funding for safety improvements to reduce deaths and injuries on Washington’s roadways with an emphasis on safety for bicycles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized modes of transport e.g.:
 - Fund the creation of Vision Zero plans and increase funding through complete streets & local infrastructure programs to support the Vision Zero implementation.
 - Support strategic highway safety goals, including SR-104, SR-522, and SR-99.
 - Support the reduction of speed limits on state roadways in accordance with National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidelines.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure and Policies** – Using the Complete Streets model, accelerate development of regional and local bicycle and pedestrian corridors, associated infrastructure, policy, and data collection to provide safe and efficient facilities.
 - Invest in research and planning to better incorporate **e-bikes and e-scooters** into active transportation infrastructure.
 - Prioritize assistance to cities to **improve the sidewalk network** throughout the state to ensure pedestrian safety.
- **Technological Advances** – Promote and incentivize technologies and infrastructure for non- motorized and electrified transportation and mobility options to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Create additional funding for cities to engage disadvantaged communities regarding transportation electrification.