

Transportation Advocacy Day 2008 ***Solutions for Healthier Communities***

Transportation continues to be one of Washington's top issues. Many of us spend too much time stuck in traffic or live in communities where healthy transportation choices like walking, biking, or taking transit simply aren't options. And the environmental and economic effects of climate change are a growing concern for Washington residents. We cannot build the same transportation system in the next fifty years as we built in the last fifty. Instead, let's support transportation investments that foster good land use policy, healthy communities, and efficient movement of people and goods.

Local Solutions to Global Warming

In order to achieve the State's global warming pollution reduction goals, responsible decisions need to be made to reduce driving and promote more efficient, livable communities. The choices made in local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions. Local Solution to Global Warming would:

- Add a goal of reducing climate pollution to the Growth Management Act
- Identify reducing global warming as an important aspect of comprehensive planning.
- Promote compact, walkable communities
- Promote transit oriented development
- Give local governments the tools and directives to plan for growth in a way that reduces our climate impact

Transportation Tools for a Cleaner Future: VMT

Senate Bill 5412 included a commitment to plan for gradual reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). As part of the governor's Climate Advisory Team process, decreasing per capita VMT between now and 2050 emerged as a priority in the transportation sector.

This proposal would set initial state goals to reduce per capita VMT. It would also convene a collaborative process to give growing regions the tools, strategies, and flexibility to plan for success. The bill would:

- Set state goals to reduce per capita VMT, giving regions tools to succeed

- Launch a collaborative process to clearly identify key strategies to achieve VMT reduction

Transportation Education for Kids + The Matthew "Tatsuo" Nakata Act

Our local neighborhoods and communities thrive when we all have the opportunity to get around in ways that are healthy and safe. This effort would elevate pedestrian and bicycle safety, both in grade school classrooms and in the basic curriculum for new drivers. Based primarily upon a Spokane program with demonstrated success, it would:

- Authorize pilot projects in three school districts across the state to instruct physical education teachers in how to teach students to safely get around by biking, walking, and taking the bus
- Add bicycle and pedestrian safety to the basic minimum curriculum for driver training

Tolling: Stronger vision, Pro-Transit policies

Legislation on tolling is likely to move forward in 2008, following the opening of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge and in advance of the debut of the High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes pilot project on SR 167. This bill presents a great opportunity for dynamic system management as well as generation of new, flexible revenue. It is critical that tolling legislation:

- Emphasize the importance of system management and the reliable movement of people and goods
- Clarify that tolling revenues be reinvested into demand management and transportation choices in the corridor

Safeguarding Federal Funds Distribution

The current system of competition for federal transportation funds through Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) is a transparent, public process with a record of success. This process, which involves local elected officials and community members, has broad buy-in and credibility.

The legislature and governor should support the existing mechanisms in place for distribution of federal transportation dollars and reverse the recent trend of off-the-top allocations that circumvent the local allocation process.