



April 14, 2009

1301 5th Avenue
Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98101-2611

Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA

206.389.7200
206.389.7288 FAX
www.seattlechamber.com

RE: Chamber support for moving forward with the SR 520 replacement process

Dear Legislator,

The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce believes that the SR 520 replacement project is critical to our region's economic vitality, and the current structure presents a significant risk of structural failure. This important project requires decisive leadership and an expedited schedule with adequate funding and construction beginning as soon as possible.

Thank you for recently approving the transportation budget that provides the 2009-2011 share of an estimated \$2.6 billion for replacing the SR 520 bridge. As you review other elements of the project and related bills in these final days of the legislative session, please consider our preeminent desire to keep the SR 520 replacement process moving forward without further delay.

This at-risk project has taken far too long to solve, and we must expedite any remaining process and decision-making. Consistent with earlier correspondence, the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce supports the expandable six-lane alternative that includes HOV lanes and the improvement of the Westside Interchange capacity at Montlake and I-5.

We believe consensus has been reached on the major aspects of this replacement: Eastside work, the Lake Bridge, Foster Island area, Portage Bay Viaduct and I-5 Connection and Lids. It is critical that we move ahead to the final design and construction of as many parts of the bridge as possible and avoid any further delay to replacing this deteriorating structure.

Our economic vitality relies on dependable infrastructure, and the replacement of the 520 Bridge is of paramount importance to the Puget Sound region and the entire state of Washington. We appreciate the opportunity to state our views on this critical matter, and we look forward to working with you to move this project to completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tayloe Washburn".

Tayloe Washburn
Chair
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Weed".

Mark Weed
Transportation Committee Chair
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce