



Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 2:16pm PST | Modified: Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 2:53pm

Seattle shut out of state's stimulus money

Puget Sound Business Journal (Seattle) - by [Deirdre Gregg](#)

Seattle won't be getting any road projects funded from the Legislature's share of federal transportation stimulus money, the chairmen of the state House and Senate transportation committees said Tuesday.

Seattle had been hoping for \$50 million for improvements to the Mercer corridor project and additional funding for the **Spokane Street Viaduct**. The two projects are connected to replacement of the **Alaskan Way Viaduct**.

But the \$341 million project list that was released by the Legislature Tuesday included no money for Seattle. The bulk of the state's share went to repaving and preservation projects.

The Puget Sound Regional Council, which develops plans and allocates funding for King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, will get its own pot of money. But the PSRC has only \$75 million for projects in all four counties, so the \$50 million Mercer corridor project likely won't get funding there.

At the **Downtown Seattle Association** meeting Tuesday, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels urged attendees to call the Legislature to complain about Seattle's exclusion from the list.

"It is mystifying that the state Legislature would seek to eliminate Spokane Street and Mercer Street from its list of stimulus projects. In fact, the Legislature has excluded Seattle from any significant federal funding," Nickels said in a statement. "This runs contrary to economic good sense, and the explicit directions from President Obama."