

To: DSA Board of Trustees
From: Kate Joncas
Date: May 22, 2006
Re: Proposal to oppose I 917

The DSA Executive Committee recommends for consideration by the Board of Trustees the following motion:

"The Downtown Seattle Association supports retaining the funding plan for the 2005 Transportation Package and is opposed to I 917."

Background

Initiative 917 which would limit car tabs to \$30. Last year we successfully opposed Initiative 912 which would have eliminated the gas tax support for the 2005 transportation package and funding for the Viaduct. This year's initiative would cause the same shut down of transportation projects state-wide by eliminating the non-gas tax funding from the package. Viaduct funding would likely be impacted as the State would have to do a massive reallocation of funds. More info below.

Description: Sponsored by Tim Eyman, M.J. Fagan, and Leo Fagan this legislation would cap car registration fees at \$30.

Status: The initiative's sponsors must gather 224,880 signatures of registered voters for the measure to be placed on the November 7th ballot.

- If passed, the initiative would repeal vehicle taxes and fees that were established in the 2005 transportation package, including new weight fees that range from \$10 to \$30. Those fees are the second biggest source of revenue next to the phased-in 9.5 cent gas tax increase.
- The targeted fees provide \$2.5 billion of the funding for the 2005 transportation package, which totals \$8.5 billion.
- Other than many highway projects at risk, Washington State would lose improvements to commuter bus service from Snohomish County, park and ride expansions, and a host of freight rail and safety and pedestrian projects. It also impacts Sound Transit by taking away the ability for the agency to collect a motor vehicle excise tax (MVET). If that happened, the agency would lose 20% of the funding for Sound Move projects – which could impact current Sounder commuter rail, ST Express bus services, and the ability to build to SeaTac and the University District.