

**To: DSA Board of Board of Trustees**  
**From: Kate Joncas**  
**Date: July 16, 2007**  
**Re: DSA Executive Committee Recommendation on the fall Roads and Transit ballot measure**

### **Recommendation**

The Executive Committee of the Downtown Seattle Association recommends to the Board of Trustees that DSA support the upcoming Roads and Transit measure which will be on the November 2007 ballot in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties.

Our region's future safety and economic health is fundamentally linked to an efficient transportation infrastructure, and the ability to move people and goods must be enhanced if our region and Downtown is to be competitive. The Roads and Transit measure builds on the significant statewide transportation investments made in 2003 and 2005, and continues the progress we've made in recent years toward ensuring that Puget Sound's economic and transportation needs are met.

### **Background**

This November, voters within Snohomish, King and Pierce counties will consider a regional Roads and Transit funding package, developed jointly and recently finalized by Sound Transit (ST) and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID). The package will be a \$17.8 billion investment in the regional transportation system over 20 years, providing 70 miles of additional light rail north to Lynnwood, south to Tacoma, and east to Bellevue and beyond. It will also add capacity and congestion relief for major highways and bridges in all three counties. Revenue is generated by a 6/10 of a cent increase in the sales tax and an 8/10 of a cent increase in the motor vehicle excise tax.

Regional organizations including the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association, Washington Roundtable, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce, Everett Area Chamber of Commerce and the Renton Chamber of Commerce have already endorsed the package. A campaign team has been hired and a strategy is being developed.

Taking a position on this regional transportation issue is consistent with DSA's actions over the last several years.

- In 2003, DSA supported the statewide nickel gas tax investment.
- In 2005, DSA supported the efforts of the Transportation Partnership, which lobbied for and secured the largest statewide transportation investment in Washington history.
- In 2005 DSA formed the Downtown Transportation Alliance, which has a goal to maintain and enhance Downtown's attractiveness as a place to do business through coordination of transportation access options and products.
- In 2006 DSA actively helped the campaign to oppose Initiative 912 which would have gutted the \$8.5 billion statewide transportation funding plan.
- Since last summer we have been participating in the Regional Mobility Partnership working group, which was created to advance and provide input into the RTID/ST funding process.
- In 2007 DSA played a leadership role in the Viaduct controversy.