



Washington State Senate

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February 3, 2020

Senator Steve Hobbs, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
John A Cherborg Building, Suite 305
Olympia, WA

Dear Senator Hobbs-

I am writing today to request your consideration in removing the City of Shoreline's Connecting Washington grant for transportation improvements along the SR 523/145th Street Corridor from the Transportation Project Deferral list. I am making this request not simply because it is a project within my district, but because it will deliver critically needed safety and mobility projects that must be in place prior to the opening of Sound Transit's Lynnwood Link light rail line in 2024.

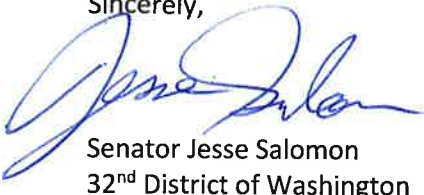
This project seeks to address one of your highest priorities: safety. The 145th St. Corridor connects some of the busiest corridors in North King County and experiences collision rates more than three times the WSDOT average. Moreover, the current sidewalk system in this corridor falls far short of ADA compliance and is impassible in many places to persons with disabilities.

Failure to complete this project in time will undercut the effective operation of the region's multi-billion-dollar investment in light rail by discouraging new riders from switching to transit when it opens due to lack of easy access.

Delay in making available Shoreline's \$12.5 million in Connecting Washington funds this year for right-of-way acquisition will make it highly unlikely that the project can be completed on time. And once light rail is in operation and tens of thousands of bus riders are seeking to access light rail through this corridor, the chance becomes very real that this project will be delayed far into an unpredictable future.

I deeply appreciate your consideration of this request. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Jesse Salomon
32nd District of Washington