

KEEP WASHINGTON ROLLING

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Historic transportation package gets lawmakers' approval, on way to Governor

Labor, business, transit backers applaud passage of Move Ahead Washington

OLYMPIA – Today the Legislature passed a historic transportation investment package that addresses challenges facing our state– including a maintenance backlog on highways and bridges, completing projects already underway and new investments in ferries, transit and other critical projects.

The Move Ahead Washington package ([ESSB 5974](#) and [ESSB 5975](#)) was passed today by the House and the Senate and will now be sent to the Governor's office for signature.

Leaders of [Keep Washington Rolling](#), a broad coalition of labor, business, local governments, transit advocates and environmental organizations, praised lawmakers for prioritizing these critical state investments in the 2022 legislative session. The state money will be used to help leverage additional federal resources included in passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) last year.

"Passage of the Move Ahead Washington package is a major step forward for our state. These critical investments in our transportation system are good news for our state economy and for Washington workers and their families," said Larry Brown, president of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. "We thank all the state lawmakers who supported this bold transportation investment. This will put folks to work maintaining and preserving current infrastructure, building key projects, moving goods more effectively and efficiency, and ensuring mobility options for workers returning to their workplaces."

"We applaud state lawmakers for their hard work and determination in delivering the Move Ahead Washington package," added Steve Mullin, President, Washington Roundtable. "This package includes

vital investments in transportation maintenance and preservation, project construction, and transit. It is a major step forward in supporting our state's continued economic recovery and long-term growth." "Washington's future relies on people getting where they need to go efficiently and affordably. This package shows we're willing to put our money where our values are as a state. It's nothing short of transformational" said Alex Hudson, executive director of Transportation Choices Coalition. "Fair access to opportunity requires great transit. By investing in real mobility options for all Washingtonians this package will result in good jobs on a healthy planet, shared prosperity, and safer communities. This is the start of a bright new chapter in how we invest as a state. Every legislator who was part of making this happen has my deepest gratitude and congratulations."

Keep Washington Rolling supports the Move Ahead Washington plan because:

- **It addresses critical needs** - WSDOT estimates that the cost to preserve the state transportation system in a state of good repair is \$8.1 billion over the next 10 years. Move Ahead Washington provides significant funding for maintenance and preservation projects across the state. This not only improves the system but also benefits local communities throughout the state. Included in this package are critical projects such as replacements for the current I-5 bridge over the Columbia River, completion of improvements to I-405, addressing challenges in the ferry system, underfunded transit service and infrastructure needs, and more.
- **It finishes what the state has started:** In 2015, the Legislature adopted Connecting Washington - a \$16 billion, 16-year transportation investment plan, multimodal investments and projects in key economic corridors. Many of those projects are already underway or set to begin soon and are experiencing increased costs. Move Ahead Washington prioritizes keeping these projects on track, protecting the jobs they support and demonstrating accountability to the public.
- **Invests in equitable economic opportunity for all:** Move Ahead Washington makes historic investments in transit and active transportation, ensuring the continuity and completion of our multimodal systems around the state and creating real pathways to accessible mobility for Washingtonians who count on transit most. Ensuring that all children can ride transit fare free puts money back in the hands of Washington's families and ensures all children can access opportunity. Supporting transit agencies to ensure a baseline level of transit for communities across Washington, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and capital needs will facilitate a strong economic recovery by creating jobs and assisting workers to return to their work sites and point us toward a sustainable, healthy environment.
- **Prioritizes environmental stewardship and sustainability:** We have a federal legal obligation to address culvert replacement over the next ten years. In addressing this - we can create jobs while we save our salmon and environment. Reducing our carbon footprint is critical in fighting the climate crisis, and the transportation sector is the single biggest contributor to GHG emissions in Washington. Move Ahead Washington makes investments in transportation to deliver more multimodal options, protect our salmon, convert our ferry and public fleets to zero emission and incentivizes the reduction of carbon use.

Keep Washington Rolling Coalition Members:

“Microsoft applauds the passage of a transportation package that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of Washington State. This is important progress by the Washington State Legislature to invest in the state’s transportation network for jobs and economic growth now, as well as high-speed rail for the future.”

- Brad Smith, President and Vice Chair, Microsoft

“We thank Senator Marko Liias and Representative Jake Fey for their leadership on the recently passed bicameral infrastructure proposal, “Move Ahead Washington,” and we thank all the legislators who passed this bill for supporting our state’s residents and continued economic growth.”

- David Zapolsky, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Amazon

“This transformative transportation package does more for people and the environment than any in our state’s history. By setting a new baseline for transportation, this package explicitly connects together the health of our communities and environment with the future of our transportation system and our state,”

- Alyssa Macy, CEO, Washington Environmental Council/Washington Conservation Voters

“We’d like to express our deep gratitude and congratulations to Chairs Liias and Fey, along with all of the negotiators involved in delivering this historic Transportation Infrastructure Package. While the transportation system will always have more work to do, this package makes great advancements, meets commitments, and provides opportunities in all regions of our beautiful state.”

- Mark L. Riker, Executive Secretary, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

“Move Ahead Washington provides funding for critical projects in Bellevue that will reduce carbon emissions and improve safety for people who walk and bicycle on regional trails, such as Eastrail and the Mountains to Sound Greenway. It will also support mobility improvements on I-405, the transportation backbone for the Eastside. Thanks to our state legislators for approving this important multimodal package.”

- Lynne Robinson, Mayor, City of Bellevue

“The historic level of funding for public transit in Move Ahead WA benefits every single transit agency in the state; from the largest, King County Metro to the smallest in Garfield County. The focus on youth, equity, and access will ensure the next generation of transit will have adequate access and service to ride safely and efficiently. We applaud both Chair Fey and Liias in their long-standing commitment to better fund public transit, Move Ahead WA reflects that commitment.”

- Justin D. Leighton, Executive Director, Washington State Transit Association

"Move Ahead WA will help leverage the region's multi-billion dollar investment in light rail and support Shoreline's commitment to transit-oriented development and affordable housing by connecting our community across I-5 directly to the new light rail station."

- Keith Scully, Mayor, City of Shoreline

"The Seattle Metro Chamber is thrilled that legislators made transportation infrastructure a priority this legislation session by passing Move Ahead Washington. It was a short session and given the complexities of funding and projects that were on the table, it would have been easy to punt this year. But instead - led by Chairs Sen. Marko Liias and Rep. Jake Fey - legislators put their shoulders in and got the negotiations done. Transportation is a key element in making this a competitive place to do business, and communities are grateful for these investments. They will move Washington state toward a more equitable, accessible, affordable, and resilient transportation system."

- Rachel Smith, President and CEO, Seattle Metro Chamber

"This package makes a critical investment in freight, commerce and economic resiliency for the entire West coast. An improved I-5 bridge and influence area improves safety and reduces seismic risk while supporting our current and planned community for decades to come."

- Ron Arp, President, Identity Clark County

"This package is a boost for the construction industry. It checks all of the boxes we had set for a package. It makes whole current projects, it fully funds the culverts, it increases investments in preservation, and it funds the bridge over the Columbia River and other new projects. We're ready to get to work."

- Jerry VanderWood, Chief Lobbyist, AGC of Washington

"The Washington Economic Development Association and economic developers across Washington are thrilled with the passage of the Move Ahead Washington package because it will make critical investments that will spark job recovery, expansion and recruitment in Washington's diverse communities. These investments will help address our serious infrastructure gaps and more adequately fund our transportation systems in order to achieve a more inclusive economy for employers, workers and families,"

- Suzanne Dale Estey, Executive Director, Washington Economic Development Association.

"We are grateful to our legislators for making this critical step to support transportation. This package will propel Washington forward, with resources for clean, equitable, and connected transportation – recognizing the need to be more innovative and diligent in how we shape our communities. We look forward to building on this investment with future packages and sustainable funding sources to address other outstanding and emerging transportation needs."

- Karen Doherty, WSP

"The skilled tradespeople at Vigor congratulate the legislature on the passage of historic transportation funding, including Move Ahead WA, which will maintain and strengthen our transportation infrastructure for years to come. Thanks to the great leadership and vision of the legislature, this critical

package will support thousands of jobs and lead to associated economic benefits in many communities. We particularly look forward to seeing the important investments made in maintaining, growing and electrifying our state's ferry fleet."

- Jill Mackie, Senior Vice President, Vigor

"Passage of the Move Ahead Washington package provides supporting grants and funding for our Bus Rapid Transit system expansion; as CEO of Pierce Transit, I am excited for the opportunities this gives our agency. I am also proud of our transportation leadership's commitment to supporting robust, equitable transit statewide. Investing in this connective resource provides a framework that encourages economic and housing development; introduces a new generation of riders to transit; enhances reliable services for elders, workers and students; and helps reduce congestion and emissions in our communities."

- Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit

"With this investment, Washington State takes a significant step forward to realizing transportation systems that serve our diverse needs and growth opportunities. This will have a positive and measurable impact for every Washingtonian, moving toward a more resilient and future focused economy."

- Rob Berman, Area Manager, HDR Washington

"This transportation package goes a long way to address many of the State's most pressing transportation issues. It also lays the groundwork for a follow up package that should fund a long list of State highway projects across Washington. These projects will help spur economic development and help accommodate the increased trips from the tech boom."

- Todd Woosley, Hal Woosley Properties, Inc.