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Mission

Building the case and constituency for lidding Interstate 5 and building a more connected, sustainable, and equitable Seattle.

Steering Committee

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Dear Senators and Representatives,

Thank you to the Senate Transportation Committee members, Chair Hobbs, and Vice Chair Saldaña for including \$6 million for statewide planning work on Interstate 5. We are supporting this funding as listed in Senate Bill 5482 section 207, including the intent to fund \$40 million for I-5 master planning over the duration of the transportation package.

Now it is time for the House Transportation Committee to also rise to the occasion. Chair Fey, 1st Vice Chair Wylie, and other members should collaborate to match and incorporate the Senate's I-5 planning funding in the final transportation budget.

It is critical that this funding be protected because Interstate 5 is the backbone of the Washington State economy, yet the freeway's Seattle segment is approaching the end of its design life, it is vulnerable to earthquakes, and it doesn't operate well for anyone. It is the same vintage as the old Alaskan Way Viaduct.

In 2018 the Washington State Department of Transportation published "[A Call to Action](#)" for further research and analysis on the future of Interstate 5. And just a few days ago, *The Seattle Times* published a [critical report](#) with a special focus on Interstate 5 titled "Delayed repairs threaten Washington state bridges and highways. Will lawmakers act this year?"

We hope you will answer that question by acting to make the investment our state and cities need to ensure the I-5 of the future is more safe, efficient, and sustainable. Planning ahead is also fiscally prudent. If the American Jobs Act is approved by Congress, billions of dollars in federal funding could soon be available to fix the I-5 system, spur economic development, and restore community connections through lids, bridges, and other strategies from Olympia to Seattle to Everett.

Please support the future of our state and region by protecting and incorporating the Senate's planning funding for Interstate I-5 in the transportation budget.

Thank you,
Lid I-5 Steering Committee