



[www.lidi5.org](http://www.lidi5.org)  
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#### Our Mission

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

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Natalie Bicknell  
Scott Bonjukian, co-chair  
Jim Castanes  
Cormac Diggins  
Liz Dunn  
John Feit, co-chair  
Bruno Lambert  
Thomas Pitchford  
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Scott Wyatt

April 16, 2019

TO: Rep. Fey, Rep. Slatter, Sen. Hobbs, Sen. Saldaña  
CC: Speaker Chopp, Rep. Macri, Sen. Pedersen; Robin Mayhew and Rob Fellows (WSDOT)  
FROM: Lid I-5 Steering Committee  
RE: **Support for I-5 Corridor Scenario Analysis Funding**

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Dear Legislators,

Lid I-5 is a volunteer-based organization seeking to strengthen Seattle's core neighborhoods and expand public land. We are driven by our mission for a more connected, sustainable, and equitable Seattle.

**Today, we are writing to support the proposed \$2.5 million funding for an I-5 Corridor Scenario Analysis in Program T of the Senate budget.**

We understand this funding is not yet proposed in the House budget. We encourage you to work with colleagues in both chambers to reconcile the difference and secure this critical funding in the legislature's final budget.

The Lid I-5 team has been meeting with WSDOT for several years to understand the challenges and potential around lidding Interstate 5 in central Seattle. We have also been attending the I-5 Systems Partnership discussions around larger transportation issues, involving a broad array of stakeholders and interests across the Puget Region. In addition, Lid I-5 is allied with a diverse coalition of neighborhood organizations and city-building advocates.

We all share a vision for a more people-focused and resilient urban freeway. I-5 was completed over 50 years ago and is no longer meeting today's mobility and economic needs. It's time for the freeway to be modernized and rehabilitated in a collaborative way. Through a sustained planning effort and comprehensive analysis, the I-5 of the future can better meet multiple goals: co-exist with urban neighborhoods; address air quality, stormwater runoff, and noise issues; improve social equity outcomes; enhance public land development opportunities; more efficiently move people and goods; reduce climate-changing emissions; and reinforce a vital link for natural disaster response.

The community and our local officials are highly committed to a key element of this vision: lidding I-5 with platforms for any combination

of parks, workforce housing, commercial use, and other infrastructure for our booming city.

In cooperation with WSDOT and other leaders, last month Seattle initiated a City Council-approved study of the engineering and financial aspects of lifting approximately 15 acres of freeway airspace. The City's study will examine options for working with both the current freeway structures and a potentially rehabilitated freeway. We recognize the latter is more likely to move the Lid I-5 vision forward. There may be efficiencies with engineering and design, funding, and construction planning.

The study will also analyze potential revenue generation for the state. We invite you to stay updated and engaged on the work; learn more at our website, [www.lidi5.org](http://www.lidi5.org).

In conclusion, we support funding for an I-5 Corridor Scenario Analysis and continued multi-jurisdiction collaboration. Please include the \$2.5 million proposal in the legislature's final budget.

Thank you,

Lid I-5 Steering Committee

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