

RESOLUTION NO. 3587

A RESOLUTION of the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle expressing the need for funding for comprehensive regional transportation improvements to reduce congestion and promote the efficient movement of people and goods; and endorsing passage of Proposition 1, the Roads and Transit ballot measure, at the general election November 6, 2007.

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle Commission adopted a business strategy that the Port will be a catalyst for regional transportation solutions to ensure access to the airport and seaport, and promote regional economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region is one of North America's largest gateways for containerized marine and air cargo, and is an important link in the international transportation system, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle forecasts continued strong growth in seaport cargo and cruise-ship activity, as well as increased activity at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, creating the need for additional transportation capacity in and around the harbor and airport; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle has made significant investments in freight mobility and traffic congestion relief; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region's population is expected to increase by 38 percent to 4.7 million, by 2030, while total daily vehicle miles traveled will grow by more than 50 percent from 64 to 98 million miles; and

WHEREAS, maintenance and improvements in roads and bridges in the Puget Sound region have not kept pace with increased demands for safe and efficient movement of people and commerce; and

WHEREAS, the resulting increase in congestion would cost this region jobs, waste natural resources, increase pollution and threaten the economic vitality of the state; and

WHEREAS, the region's adopted approach to solving the our transportation challenges calls for maintaining our current infrastructure, making strategic capacity investments in key corridors, and creating new transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District have jointly developed Proposition 1, Roads and Transit, for consideration by the voters on November 13, that would provide for major investments in highways, light- and commuter-rail, including extension of Link service from Sea-Tac Airport south to Tacoma, HOV lanes, park-and-ride lots, and bus service in King, Pierce and Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1 would fund several projects important to the Port of Seattle, including completion of the SR 509 connection to Interstate 5, improvements in the Mercer Corridor, the Spokane Street Viaduct, Lander Street Overpass and South Park Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the addition of 50 miles of light rail and improvements in commuter-rail service will benefit the region's transportation system by providing alternatives to single-occupancy automobiles, easing congestion and extending the capacity of the highway system; and

WHEREAS, these investments will have a positive environmental effect by reducing congestion, encouraging use of transit and promoting more efficient movement of people and commerce.

