

## **RESOLUTION NO. 3547**

**A RESOLUTION** of the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle opposing passage of Initiative 912 and expressing the urgent need for funding of transportation projects to ensure capacity for the movement of people and commerce, to reduce congestion and to strengthen the region's economy.

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle Commission has adopted as a strategy that the Port should be a catalyst for regional transportation solutions to ensure access to the airport and seaport, to provide access for future Port developments and to promote regional economic competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, an efficient transportation system is critical to the growth of Washington's economy and is a pivotal factor in our ability to create jobs and stay competitive in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle is experiencing a significant growth in seaport cargo and cruise-ship activity, as well as increased activity at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, creating need for additional transportation capacity in and around the harbor and near the airport; and

**WHEREAS**, improvements and repairs of roads and bridges in the Puget Sound region and throughout the state have not keep pace with increased demands for the safe and efficient movement of people and commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the resulting increase in congestion has cost this region jobs, wastes natural resources, increases pollution and threatens the economic vitality of our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature in 2005 adopted an \$8.5 billion transportation package that provides funding for many of the most critical needs, such as repair and replacement of at-risk structures; easing congestion bottlenecks; freight mobility, safety and environmental improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation provides funding for several projects critically important to the Port of Seattle, such as replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and seawall, completion of SR 509 in south King County to reduce congestion and speed freight movement; expansion of SR 518 to relieve congestion near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of other important freight-mobility projects are also dependent on increased transportation funding, including the East Marginal Way grade separation; and

**WHEREAS**, increased economic activity related to the construction of these transportation projects will create an estimated additional 8,800 net jobs per year, on average, over the next ten years, with a peak of 14,500 jobs in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 912, an initiative on the November 8 general-election ballot; would repeal the 9.5-cent gasoline tax increase provided in the transportation funding package, and

**WHEREAS**, passage of Initiative 912 would eliminate money for more than 270 projects statewide to improve safety and increase capacity; including replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and other projects critically needed by the Port to accommodate current and future cargo growth and activity at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport,


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle, as follows:

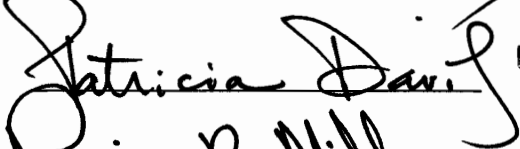
Section 1. The Port Commission expresses the unanimous opinion that the state and regional transportation system has failed to keep pace with our growing needs, and that our economic vitality depends on significant and immediate improvements to increase safety and capacity; and that


Section 2. Initiative 912, if approved by the voters, would deny funding of projects critically needed to improve safety, reduce congestion and increase the movement of commerce, and create a barrier to creation of new jobs and economic opportunity in our state and region.

Section 3. The Port Commission strongly encourages the state's voters to reject Initiative 912.

**ADOPTED** by the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle at a regular meeting held this 13th day of September, 2005, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the Commission.

  
ALEC FISKEN

  
PATRICIA DAVIS

  
PAIGE MILLER

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Port Commissioners