

ETA 2019 Legislative Objectives Post Session Review



ETA 2019 Legislative Objectives
<http://www.eastsidetransportation.org>

2019 Legislative Session

A well-performing highway and local arterial system is crucial to moving employees, freight, customers and families throughout King County's Eastside. Yet, Eastside roads such as I-405, I-90, SR 520, SR 522, SR 527 and SR 18 are plagued by chronic traffic congestion due to underinvestment in additional capacity, even as vehicular trips continue to grow. Therefore, the Eastside Transportation Association (ETA) supports a bold, long-term transportation funding package to accelerate the overall completion of the I-405 Master Plan and other Eastside road capacity projects (particularly near-term capacity investments in Bellevue, Kirkland and Bothell).

Transportation investments and funding

1. State gas tax increase: The ETA supports a significant increase in the state gas tax to make up for previous underinvestment in long-planned State Highway capacity improvements.
2. Regional highway and arterial funding: Improve on the authorizing legislation/RCWs allowing the creation of a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) to supplement state funding of highways and regional arterials. Revisions regarding governance, boundaries, tax authority and long-term funding strategies for a regional funding plan for capacity improvements to the I-405/SR 167 corridor, other Highways of Statewide Significance and connecting arterials in the region should be made to increase voter support and effectiveness of investments.
3. Tolling bill: Repeat the legislative intent language for Express Toll Lanes/HOT lanes pilot projects and eventual expansion (RCW 47.56.880).
4. I-405/Give Us Our Lane Back: Operate I-405 from Renton to Lynnwood with a single 2+ HOV lane each way with enhanced friction reducing techniques with all other lanes operating as general purpose lanes.
5. Toll revenue bonding bill: Prohibit bonding of the I-405 toll revenue. Bond covenants may create a financial obligation to keep general purpose lanes congested to satisfy bond holders.

Other

1. 18th Amendment protection: Any tax or fee charged to motor vehicle owners or on motor vehicle use should be protected by the 18th Amendment.
2. Sound Transit governance and tax: Change the Sound Transit Board structure to a directly elected board; and discontinue the use of the repealed MVET schedule.
3. Shared transportation: Support legislation related to autonomous vehicles and shared transportation such as 2017 HB 2862 Park and Ride access and SB 6080, Section 301.

Eastside
Transportation
Association

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Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
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ETA 2019 Legislative Objectives Post Session Review

Transportation investments and funding

1. Gas Tax increase

Sen. Hobbs proposal introduced. Start of conversation

2. RTID

No bills introduced or discussed.

3. Tolling – Repeal Bellevue to Lynnwood

SSB 5825 passed to extend tolling to Puyallup & Gateway Projects

4. I-405/Give us our Lane Back

No discussion, see 3 above.

5. Prohibit Toll Revenue Bonding

Toll revenue bonding approved per SSB 5825



ETA 2019 Legislative Objectives Post Session Review

Hobbs Package – “Forward WA”

- 1. SB 5970 Transportation Funding/Bonds**
- 2. SSB 5971 Transportation Funding/Fees**
- 3. SSB 5972 Additive Transportation Funding**



ETA 2019 Legislative Objectives Post Session Review

Other issues:

1. 18th Amendment Protection

SSB 5825 deposits toll bond revenue in Motor Vehicle Fund

2. Sound Transit Governance

Senator O'Ban introduced a bill & held a hearing. No Action

3. Shared Transportation

Bills drafted, Hearings held, No action. Education achieved



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New issues for 2020/2021:

- 1. Adult Conversation - \$100 Billion Package**
- 2. RTID revisions – find a sponsor**



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Discussion

