

VETO MESSAGE ON ESSB 6381

March 30, 2010

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Sections 215(3); 215(5); 221(13); 303(43); 304(15); 401, page 89, lines 18-20, 23-25, and 26-27; and 602 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6381 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to transportation funding and appropriations."

Section 215(3), page 31, Department of Transportation

This proviso ties the appropriation contained within this subsection to either the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) or the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) conducting an analysis identified in Sections 108(4) and 204 of this bill. This action effectively delegates appropriation authority to either the JLARC or the JTC. I believe that this delegation of authority will be remedied in the operating budget. For this reason, I have vetoed Section 215(3).

Section 215(5), page 32, Department of Transportation

This proviso requires the Department of Transportation to finalize all pending equal value exchange activities for the construction or improvement of facilities. Thereafter, the Department may not pursue any other equal value exchanges except to replace the Mount Baker headquarters office. Equal value exchanges are important tools that the Department uses to fund high priority facility projects. For this reason, I have vetoed Section 215(5).

Section 221(13), page 47, Department of Transportation

This proviso requires the Department of Transportation to implement a pilot program for the remainder of the 2009-11 Biennium to expand the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes, transit-only lanes, and certain park and ride facilities to private transportation providers. The proviso requires transit agencies and other local jurisdictions to have a process to receive applications for the reasonable use of these facilities. If a private transportation provider demonstrates that the transit agency or local jurisdiction failed to consider an application in good faith, the Department may not award any grant funding.

This proviso conflicts with federal regulations due to its broad allowance of the private use of public facilities. The

Federal Transit Authority (FTA) requires specific authorization before allowing private transportation uses in federally funded public facilities. In addition, the issuance of grants to local jurisdictions for vanpools, special needs transportation, and other facilities to improve regional mobility should not be based upon the outcome of negotiations between local jurisdictions and private transportation providers.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 221(13).

Section 303(43), page 66, Department of Transportation
Section 304(15), page 72, Department of Transportation

These provisos require that redistributed federal funds received by the Department of Transportation first be applied to offset planned expenditures of state funds, and second to offset planned expenditures of federal funds, on projects identified in the project list in the 2010 supplemental budget. If these options are not feasible, the Department must consult with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) prior to obligating redistributed federal funds. If such consultation is not feasible and Washington does not act quickly, we may lose the opportunity to receive redistributed federal funds. However, because input from the Legislature is important, I am directing the Department to consult with JTC members.

For this reason, I have vetoed Section 303(43) and Section 304(15).

Section 401, page 89, lines 18-20, 23-25, and 26-27, State Treasurer

This section provides for bond sale discounts and debt to be paid by the motor vehicle account and transportation fund revenue. Technical modeling problems resulted in some erroneous amounts. For this reason, I have vetoed lines 18-20, 23-25, and 26-27 of Section 401.

Section 602, page 96, Department of Transportation

This proviso requires that redistributed federal funds received by the Department of Transportation first be applied to offset planned expenditures of state funds, and second to offset planned expenditures of federal funds, on projects identified in the project list in the 2010 supplemental budget. If these options are not feasible, the Department must consult with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) prior to obligating redistributed federal funds. For the same reason that I vetoed Section 303(43) and Section 304(15) above, I have vetoed Section 602.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Sections 215(3); 215(5); 221(13); 303(43); 304(15); 401, page 89, lines 18-20, 23-25, and 26-27; and 602 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6381.

With the exception of Sections 215(3); 215(5); 221(13); 303(43); 304(15); 401, page 89, lines 18-20, 23-25, and 26-27; and 602, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6381 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor