
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4001

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Fey, Dufault, and Barkis)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/25.

1 TO THE HONORABLE JULIE MEREDITH, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND
2 TO THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE
3 WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
6 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, Russell Gilbert Blount was a Public Works Director,
8 Deputy City Manager, and Interim City Manager for the City of Fife
9 for 20 years between 2002 and his untimely passing in 2022; and

10 WHEREAS, Russ Blount was a leader on transportation issues in the
11 State of Washington, Pierce County, and the City of Fife in a public
12 service career that spanned over two decades; and

13 WHEREAS, Russ Blount had a passion for the State of Washington,
14 Pierce County, City of Fife, public works, and public transportation
15 infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, Russ Blount served on committees for infrastructure
17 projects of statewide and regional significance including the Puget
18 Sound Gateway Project and Sound Transit's Tacoma Dome Link Extension;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Russ Blount served on the Puget Sound Regional Council's
21 Regional Project Evaluation Committee, where he was vice chair, the
22 Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Staff Committee, where he was
23 an alternate vice chair, the Pierce County Transportation

1 Coordinating Committee, where he was chair from 2011 to 2022, the
2 Freight Advisory Committee, and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory
3 Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, Russ Blount provided staff support to elected officials
5 who served on the Puget Sound Regional Council's Executive Board, the
6 Puget Sound Regional Council's Operations Committee, the Puget Sound
7 Regional Council's Transportation Policy Board, the Puget Sound
8 Regional Council's Project Selection Task Force, and the Pierce
9 County Regional Council; and

10 WHEREAS, Russ Blount was instrumental in solving various
11 disagreements, competing desires, funding challenges, and equitable
12 distribution of grant funds, and did so with absolute honesty and
13 integrity; and

14 WHEREAS, Russ Blount advanced major transportation infrastructure
15 projects in the City of Fife that included Pacific Highway East, 70th
16 Avenue East, Valley Avenue East, Wapato Way East; and

17 WHEREAS, Russ Blount led a transportation project of statewide
18 significance known as the Interstate 5 and Port of Tacoma Road
19 Interchange, phase one of which was constructed in 2020 and phase two
20 of which is included in the state transportation budget to be
21 constructed starting in 2024; and

22 WHEREAS, The Interstate 5 and Port of Tacoma Road Interchange
23 project would not have happened were it not for Russ Blount's vision,
24 leadership, creativity, and determination; and

25 WHEREAS, Your Memorialists, the City of Fife, the Puyallup Tribe
26 of Indians, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, the Port of
27 Tacoma, Pierce County and all the Regional Access Mobility
28 Partnership (RAMP) partners support naming a feature of said project
29 after Russ Blount; and

30 WHEREAS, Part of the Interstate 5 and Port of Tacoma Road
31 Interchange project includes a new overpass over Interstate 5 at 34th
32 Avenue East in the City of Fife;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
34 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to
35 name the future 34th Avenue East overpass in the City of Fife as the
36 Russ Blount Memorial Bridge to honor Russ Blount's vision,
37 leadership, creativity, and determination as a leader on
38 transportation issues in the State of Washington, Pierce County, and
39 the City of Fife in a public service career that spanned over two
40 decades.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable Julie Meredith, Secretary of
3 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and
4 the Washington State Department of Transportation.

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