

VETO MESSAGE ON ESSB 6392

March 30, 2010

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 1 and 3, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6392 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to the use of revenue generated from tolling the state route number 520 corridor."

Section 1 outlines legislative intent for the bill. I believe the legislation itself states clearly that improvements throughout the SR 520 corridor need to move forward, with the proper input from appropriate parties. However, Section 1 is vague and susceptible to conflicting interpretations, which I believe could hinder our ability to make progress on a project that is important to public safety and economic vitality.

Section 3 requires that the SR 520 bridge be no higher than 20 feet. I recognize it is important to local communities that the bridge have as low a profile as possible. Decisions regarding the dimensions of a transportation facility must also be based on engineering standards, safety considerations, permitting requirements, and state and federal law. Section 3 potentially prevents the Department of Transportation from complying with Coast Guard requirements and eliminates any possibility of adjusting the size of the facility based upon design or permitting needs. As a result, I am vetoing this section and directing the Department to continue to work with neighborhoods and local governments to refine the preferred alternative design.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Sections 1 and 3 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6392.

With the exception of Sections 1 and 3, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6392 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Gregoire
Governor