

GARY LOCKE  
Governor



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October 30, 2003

The Honorable Wayne Allard  
United States Senator  
525 Senate Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Kennedy  
United States House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
116 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Allard and Congressmen Kennedy and Smith:

Thank you for informing me of your efforts on H.R. 1767, the Freeing Alternatives for Speedy Transportation (FAST) Act.

I am pleased to offer my support. This legislation will greatly benefit travelers and businesses in Washington State. It will provide new tools to improve mobility and reduce traffic congestion in Puget Sound, where transportation improvement projects often are expensive and entail delays.

As is true in many parts of the country, a large discrepancy exists between the number of transportation priorities identified in our state and its available tax revenues. Value pricing as provided by FAST will be of tremendous assistance. The concept has received in-state support, and the Regional Transportation Investment District draft plan envisions using value pricing for interstate highways, subject to voter approval. The state's Department of Transportation is also examining value pricing for critical highly-traveled state highways requiring prompt attention, such as the SR-520 Bridge replacement. I hope this type of project can be included in the final legislation, allowing a greater range of financing options to meet public needs.

Again, thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gary Locke  
Governor

