



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

June 19, 2003

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation I would like to applaud your efforts in support of H.R. 1767, the FAST (Freeing Alternatives for Speedy Transportation) Act.

This legislation will benefit travelers and businesses in Washington State by providing a new tool to attack congestion and improve mobility. This tool would be particularly helpful in Puget Sound where congestion relief construction projects are enormously expensive and face a lengthy permitting process.

Washington State, like many other states, faces a large gap between needed transportation improvements and what can be funded with existing tax revenues. Value pricing as enabled by FAST will provide a method for providing transportation improvements and helping to bridge that funding gap.

There is support in our state for the concepts of the FAST Act. For example, the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) draft plan (which will be subject to voter approval) provides the ability to apply value pricing on the interstate as would be allowed by FAST.

WSDOT is also examining value pricing in two areas that are not addressed by FAST: critically important, highly traveled and congested state highways needing quick attention, such as the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the R-520 Bridge (supported in the draft RTID plan); and conversion of an existing HOV lane to a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane (a study requested by the Transportation Commission).

It is our hope that these two issues might be included in the final, conferenced legislation so that we have increased options to present to the public for consideration in meeting their travel needs.

Thank you for your leadership on the highway pricing issue. If WSDOT can be of assistance please contact me or Larry Ehl at (360) 705-7024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas B. MacDonald".

Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

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