Dear Member of the Puget Sound Regional Council and Interested Parties:

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the update of the central Puget Sound region’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) called Transportation 2040. The MTP represents the efforts of government agencies serving the region composed of King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties to coordinate planning of diverse transportation systems to support the region’s anticipated growth and meet its economic and environmental goals through the year 2040. The DEIS is being issued for agency and public review and comment. The update of the MTP is scheduled to be adopted by the General Assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) in Spring 2010.

The DEIS contains information on a range of options including a future baseline (no action) alternative and five future action alternatives. The action alternatives differ in how the region would distribute investments in system efficiency and expansion. The approaches range from modest improvements with limited funding to a dramatic shift in priorities resulting in a new type of transportation system. Tolling also plays a role in each alternative. The alternatives explore how different approaches to tolling can help manage congestion and also pay for improvements.

Some of the key environmental issues addressed in the plan include:

- **Congestion and Mobility:** How do the alternatives reduce congestion for all types of freight and person travel?
- **Environmental Concerns:** How do the alternatives reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change and water quality impacts on Puget Sound?
- **Transportation Finance:** How do the alternatives support the development of sustainable transportation funding?

Preparation of this DEIS has included extensive agency coordination and public comment over many months, and has been guided by the PSRC’s Transportation and Growth Management Policy Boards. Important information regarding the MTP update is contained in the DEIS. More information is available through the PSRC’s Information Center (206) 464-7532, or on the web at psrc.org. Please submit comments on the DEIS in writing, either at several public meetings scheduled around the region, by filling out the comment form at the Transportation 2040 website at www.psrc.org, by fax at (206) 587-4825, or by mail to Sean Ardussi, 1011 Western Ave., Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104-1035.

Your comments on the DEIS must be received in writing by 5:00 pm, July 13, 2009. A draft of the Transportation 2040 plan is scheduled to be available for public review in fall 2009, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be issued in early 2010.

Your comments are encouraged. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bob Drewel
Executive Director,
Puget Sound Regional Council