



AN UPDATE FROM
CONGRESSMAN RICK LARSEN

on investing in Northwest Washington's
transportation infrastructure



Congressman Larsen tours the Old Highway 99 bridge in Skagit County to learn about planned improvements.



Congressman Larsen rides the Centennial Trail in Arlington with Washington Bikes and other advocates for better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as trails and sidewalks.



DEAR NEIGHBOR:

In Washington state, transportation means jobs. Investing in our roads, bridges, highways and transit systems puts people to work and keeps our economy moving. That is why I am fighting in Congress for the interests of the Pacific Northwest, where we rely on all forms of transportation every day.

South Snohomish County faces unique transportation needs. We use cars, buses, ferries and sidewalks to get to work and school. Businesses need railways and runways to get their goods to market. And to deal with traffic congestion, people increasingly rely on transit to get around.

Building and maintaining our transportation network depends on robust federal funding. More than a quarter of Washington state's transportation budget each year comes from the federal government.

That is why I worked hard to push for Washington state's transportation priorities in the new long-term transportation bill that Congress recently passed, and I am pleased that the bill makes critical investments in the roads, transit, ferries and trails that you rely on to keep South Snohomish County moving. You can learn more in this update, and let me know what you think by visiting me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen

RAIL SAFETY

Many constituents have shared their concerns about the safety of crude oil traveling by rail through their neighborhoods. These concerns are completely valid, and I share them too. That is why no one in our state's Congressional delegation is working harder to hold railroads accountable for higher standards to keep our communities safe. At the beginning of the year, I took a position on the subcommittee that oversees rail safety issues to be better positioned to help strengthen rail infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. I also pushed successfully for the transportation bill that Congress recently passed to include more money for improving crossings where roads meet rails, which is where rail incidents are most likely to occur. And the transportation bill includes tougher requirements for tank cars carrying crude oil.

COMMUTER RAIL

The Sound Transit 2 plan to extend light rail service to Snohomish County continues to move forward, with service targeted to begin in 2023. Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the extension in April, and the Sound Transit Board of Directors unanimously approved the route to bring the line to Snohomish County. Construction and design depend on federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration, which received full funding in the transportation bill.

FERRIES

Ferryboats are an extension of the highway system. Washington state has the largest public ferry system in the country. I recently pushed successfully for a \$10 million federal grant for the Mukilteo ferry terminal to help pay for upgrades that will improve safety and traffic congestion. And I led efforts to increase ferryboat funding in the new federal transportation bill, which invests an additional \$2 million in Washington state ferries each year for the next five years.

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

The safety of everyone on our roads should be our top priority. Trails, sidewalks and bike lanes are important parts of our transportation network. In the past, federal dollars have funded sidewalks, bike lanes and other infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists in Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace. The transportation bill increases funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure so kids walking to school and workers biking to their jobs can stay safe.

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*Keeping you informed is essential to our fight for Washington's 2nd District in Congress.
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