



## Pierce County

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Office of the County Council

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046  
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2176  
(253) 798-3635  
FAX (253) 798-7509  
TDD (253) 798-4018  
1-800-992-2456  
[www.piercecountywa.org/council](http://www.piercecountywa.org/council)

**SHAWN BUNNEY**  
**Pierce County Council**  
**District 1**

November 28, 2007

Honorable Chris Gregoire  
Governor, State of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-00002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Among the reasons I agreed to chair RTID were the desire to ensure that Pierce County projects were selected for their economic impact, to make sure that taxes raised in Pierce County stayed in Pierce County, and to provide leadership for our region in putting forward funding answers to regional road congestion.

Thanks in large part to King County Executive Ron Sims and the Seattle Times, voters were led to believe there is a better way to fund regional transportation. I am telling Pierce County taxpayers **HOLD ON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS!**

I am sure that before voters went to bed on election night some Seattle legislators were busy ramping up for another raid of the region's road funds...funds they say are for a \$4.4 billion "Safety" project called the 520 Bridge.

This is the same group that siphoned \$700 million in gas taxes out of Pierce County in the past fifteen years.

We heard this story yet again in 2006 when the same Seattle interests took almost \$400 million out of Pierce County wallets to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct; a viaduct, it turns out, not wanted by Seattle because it blocks the view.

To say that the 520 Bridge is a "Safety" project does not accurately portray the planned gold-plated entrances to the Emerald City and Clyde Hill/Medina. Current plans include \$100 million for bike and pedestrian lanes, \$250 million for five new parks created to muffle bridge noise, \$700-\$800 million for parks and lids on the east side of the lake, and a 50% capacity increase. The only thing missing is a giant archway from which trumpets can blare as Ron Sims enters and exits Seattle.



Councilman Bunney to Governor Gregoire  
November 28, 2007

The scene is set for another contrived feeding frenzy in the legislature, which will leave Pierce County with crumbs.

I am hoping you see the advantage of thinking independently of the Seattle-centric view of the world.

As RTID chair over these years I have heard all there is about every prospective project advocated in the tri-county region. Of all the projects brought before RTID I believe the project with the most potential is SR 167.

Governor, Washington State needs a fully funded SR 167 jobs project. Extending SR 167 to the Port of Tacoma will create **80,000 new jobs** regionally. That road that currently ends in a corn field in Puyallup absolutely needs to be extended to the Port of Tacoma where it can boost the economy of the entire state.

The SR 167 extension is a legacy project.

No other construction project in the state offers 80,000 new jobs.

No other industry in the state anticipates 80,000 new jobs.

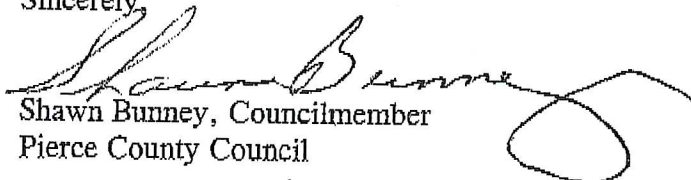
No other Governor in memory has had the opportunity to lock in 80,000 virtually guaranteed new jobs.

This is a once-in-a-career opportunity to impact generations of Washingtonians.

Governor, let's talk. We can meet one on one. If you prefer, I can bring a delegation of business owners, investors, and port officials. But with all due respect I am putting you on notice that Pierce County will not accept its tax dollars being ripped off yet again to pay for King County parks and 520 Bridge bike and pedestrian projects. Every political candidate and every elected official at every level in every possible public venue will be asked if they support SR 167 and the 80,000 new jobs the project offers.

We need to meet sooner, not later. SR 167 needs to be on the top of your list of priorities. Hopefully 80,000 new jobs are right up there for you also. Let's work together to make it happen.

Sincerely,

  
Shawn Bunney, Councilmember  
Pierce County Council