October 13, 2006

Mr. Douglas B. MacDonald, Secretary  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
PO Box 47316  
Olympia WA 98504-7316  

Under SSB 6241 Section 304(1)(b) ("Access Plan")

Dear Secretary MacDonald:

Thank you for completing the Access Plan described above in compliance with Senator Weinstein’s budget proviso regarding funds for the I-90 Two Way Transit and HOV project (Project). It is my understanding that you are proceeding with construction of the first funded phase of the Project which will provide immediate traffic congestion relief along the I-90 corridor. I appreciate the outstanding work and analysis contained in the Access Plan and believe it’s an excellent start in addressing “equitable and dependable” access for Mercer Island traffic.

The September 8, 2005 letter addressed to you from all signatories (other than WSDOT) to the original 1976 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) resulted from significant work and compromise among the parties. This letter signifies a regional solution and meets the interests of all of your MOA partners’ interests. Mercer Island has repeatedly demonstrated its agreement with regional solutions including agreeing to the conversion of the HOV lanes in the outer I-90 roadway to HOT lanes.

Consistent with your I-90 MOA partner’s position, we encourage you to revise the Access Plan to clearly state Mercer Island traffic will have access to the outer roadway HOV lanes during the period of operation of such lanes following the removal of Mercer Island traffic from the center roadway and prior to conversion of the outer roadway HOV lanes to HOT lanes.

Thank you again for responding to the 2006 State Transportation Budget Proviso. We look forward to continuing to work together to move the State’s transportation system forward to meet the needs of all of our constituents.

Sincerely,

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Senator Brian Weinstein      Representative Fred Jarrett

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Representative Judy Clibborn