



Senator Eide's Week in Review

January 23-27

Greetings!

I hope that you've all recovered after last week's storm and that you're warm and dry while reading this. It was certainly easier getting into the office this week without the snow, ice, and downed branches and power lines. However, while the commute may now be less difficult, the budget crisis in Olympia is still a challenge.

In the Spotlight: The Budget

We have much work to do to close the \$1.5 billion dollar budget gap that the state faces. Last November the Governor proposed her plans which are detailed [here](#). One budget is only cuts, the other proposes a three year half-penny increase in the sales tax to generate the revenue necessary to keep vital public services. Our final budget may look very different from the one that the Governor proposed, but it has provided a starting point for discussions.

Many bills have been sponsored that include reducing or eliminating services and revenue to avoid these cuts. I will be following each bill as it travels through the Ways and Means committee and include updates in future newsletters.

Triangle Project: Ahead of Schedule and on Budget

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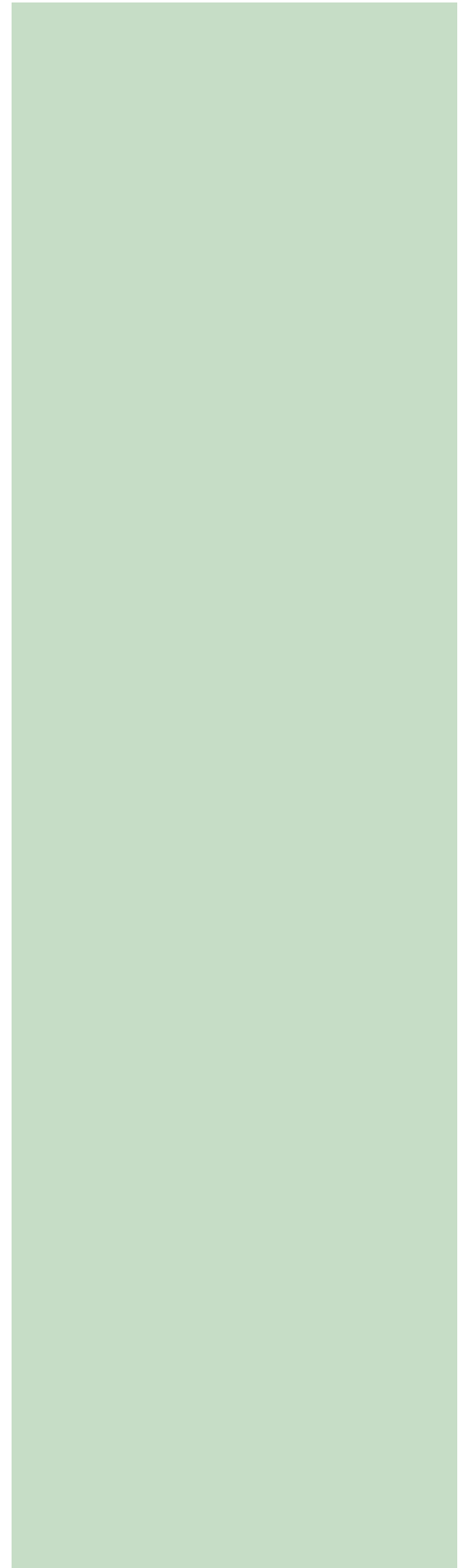
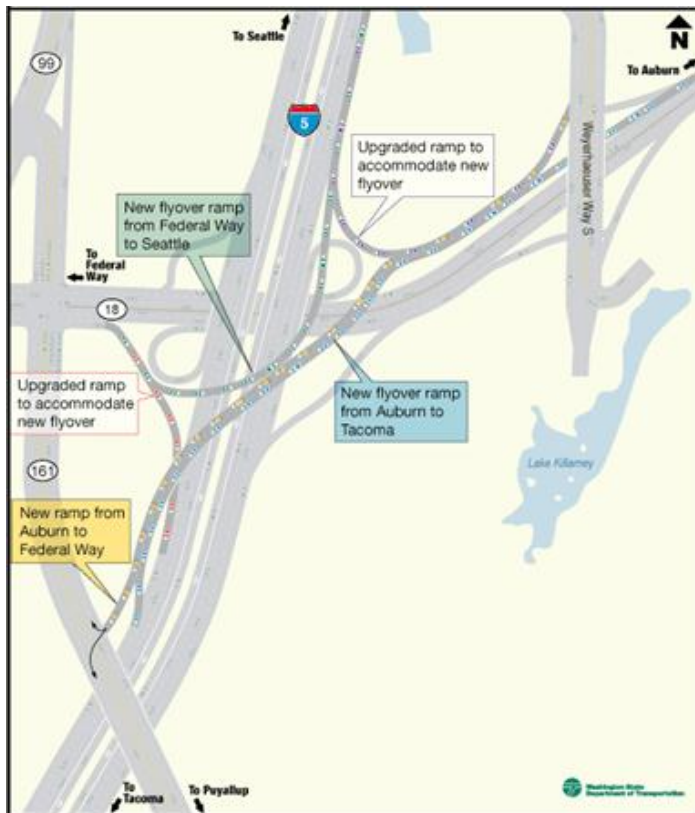
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This \$112.5 million construction project has created hundreds of good paying jobs supporting families and our local economy. The Triangle will transform the I-5/SR 18/SR 161 interchange, reduce congestion and improve safety. When finished, the Triangle will be a boon to our local economy, creating an estimated 6,000 new jobs as a result of reduced congestion and increased access to Federal Way and Milton businesses. (Photo is from WSDOT).



In 2005, Washington voters approved a gas tax increase to fund transportation construction projects across the State. I fought hard to ensure \$100 million from this gas tax was appropriated to the Triangle and not siphoned off to mega-projects in Seattle. For too long, Federal Way and South King County have not received a fair share of State resources.

I'm pleased to announce **this project is ahead of schedule and on budget**. The original completion date was April 2013, but the Triangle Project is now scheduled to be completed this fall.

Sound Transit Update

Like the successful \$100 million appropriation for the Triangle Project, I am working hard, building consensus and forming partnerships to ensure Sound Transit treats Federal Way in a fair manner. In a letter sent to the Federal Way City Council I said that “until we have the chance to review the auditor’s findings, we simply do not know all the facts. By dismantling Sound Transit without first targeting where waste and abuse exists, we jeopardize our end goal of eventually extending link light rail to Federal Way.”

Attempting to pass legislation before we know the results of the audit may prove to be counterproductive to our interests. I am committed to ensuring that all taxpayers and businesses in Federal Way and South King County receive their fair share from Sound Transit.

Teacher Evaluations

As a parent of two Federal Way public school graduates, I know how important it is to have the best possible teachers in classrooms to educate our children.

Unfortunately, our current statewide teacher evaluation system limits feedback to a simple satisfactory or unsatisfactory response. That says little about actual

classroom performance and provides no guidance for teachers on how to improve their craft.



In 2010, the legislature passed a bill to revise the professional development system for teachers and principals. New systems to evaluate educators were piloted in 8 school

districts around the state. Not only do these systems provide critical feedback for teachers and principals, they also place a premium upon personal professional development, creating a better learning environment for students. Each system is built from the ground up, with input from teachers, principals, administrators, and parents, rather than mandated from the top down.

This week, [the Early Learning and K-12 Committee](#) heard several options on how to expand the evaluation system state-wide. Various groups including parents, teachers, and administrators were in Olympia to voice their opinion on the issue. I will include more information as we decide how to move forward over the coming weeks.

This week's Page:

Erik Straume; 8th Grade, Seattle Christian High School

Each session I am proud to sponsor students who come to the Capitol to participate in the Senate Page Program. These young men and women have a unique opportunity to observe and take part in the legislative process. For more information, visit the [Senate Page Program](#) website.

This week's visitors:

-Guy Renfro, Rolf and Doris Amundson, Erin McClain, and

Judy Kimes; redefinition of marriage

-Letricia Hatch and Laura Belvin; marriage equality

-Judy Turpin, Betty Cron, and Judith Eiler; education funding

-Rachel Smith-Mosel and family; marriage equality

-Ron Mayberry; Federal Way Internet Academy

-Rob Reggio, Farmers Insurance Group

-Jan Novack, Danielle, and George, Federal Way Auto License Agency

-Evaet Schreier, Sarah Couture, Chelsea, Cindy Larson, Nancy Alleman, Lora Kordyshovsky, Nhi Quach, Angela Creed, and Katie Tomilov; dental practitioners shown in the photo below:



Senator Tracey Eide with guests in the Senate Chamber.

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-Chief Al Church, Mary Stevens, Mark Freitas, Victor Pennington, and John Rickert; South King County Fire & Rescue

-Des Moines Mayor Dave Kaplan and Assistant City Manager Lori Erickson

-Mary Byrne, Vickie Fabre, Bruce Titus, John Gilchrist, and Dan Kiekenapp; Washington Auto Dealers

-Robert Lipston and Chris Flores; mortgage brokers

-Tracy Oster, Joseph Colon, Sarah Curl, Stephen Smith, and Kahanu Kahoonei; Federal Way Communities in School

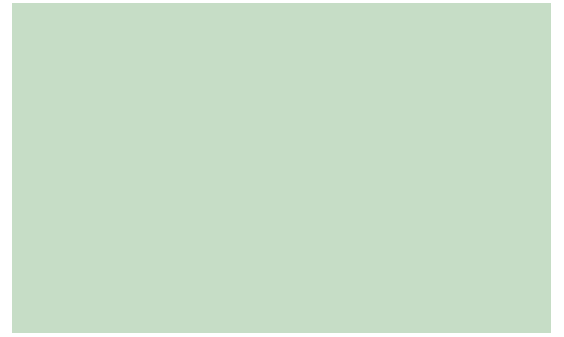
-Bryan Edgar, Abe Le, Paul Cho, Elizabeth Zebian, Casey Cate, Silvia La Rosa, Susan Hollinsworth, Linda Edgar, and

Mostafa Norrooz; Dental Action Day

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

Best,

Tracey Eide



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