



Washington State Senate

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Dear Monroe residents,

It is my honor to serve as your state senator. As you may know, the 12th District boundaries recently changed to include a portion of Snohomish County, including Monroe. As the new state senator representing Monroe, many of you have contacted me about the status of widening State Route 522.

I am very grateful for the communications that I have had with community members and local leaders about the SR 522 project, including multiple conversations with Mayor Geoffrey Thomas and other city officials. While I am new to the SR 522 history, it has been made very clear to me how important completing this project is to your community. As a member of the Senate's Transportation Committee, please know that I will advocate for this project as one of my top legislative priorities.

To provide you an update, the state has appropriated over \$30 million so far toward this project, including \$10 million in the 2022 "Move Ahead Washington" transportation package. The design – as further described in the enclosed handout – includes widening SR 522 between Monroe and Maltby and adding an interchange at Paradise Lake Road and Maltby Road. For efficiency and to improve overall traffic flow, the two elements (widening and interchange) are combined as one project.

Based on my communications with the Washington State Department of Transportation and others, current activities involve design, engineering, and right-of-way acquisition, which includes purchasing properties for the widening and interchange. Once this phase is completed, the project is eligible to advance to its construction phase, which could cost \$180 million or more. This portion of the project is not yet funded. Due to the construction cost, this project will not likely be funded in a regular two-year transportation budget and might be included in the next transportation investment package, which is separate from the budgets. These packages are approved approximately every four-to-six years.

With the design and right-of-way work moving ahead but the construction phase not yet funded, it could be some years before final financing is authorized. After a project receives its construction funding, it takes time to complete the plans to bid the project for construction. It may be several years before this project is fully funded in the next transportation plan. The governor's recently proposed budget, for example, does not include funding to complete the design for SR 522 until the 2033-2035 budget cycle. This timeline is not acceptable to me, and I will be working to prioritize completion of this important project.

Based on many of the questions I have received from my new constituents in your community, I know this is very disappointing, especially to those of you who commute along this section of SR 522. As your state senator, however, I will always be forthright with you about the status of issues affecting our district. Please know that I will advocate for the SR 522 project and prioritize it when the Legislature considers funding opportunities.

Please contact my office if you have any questions about this project or other state issues.

Sincerely,

Brad Hawkins