CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

September 1, 2006

Jane Garvey, Chair
Expert Review Panel
700 12th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Garvey:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your work on the Alaskan Way Viaduct and SR 520 projects. These are critical safety and traffic congestion projects for the Central Puget Sound region, and I appreciate your deliberative approach and thoughtful recommendations.

After reviewing your report, I have some follow-up questions. I would like you to continue your work, by evaluating the information related to each of these requests and providing me with your recommendations.

First, you emphasize the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) should find a way to construct the Alaskan Way Viaduct project without closing access to the waterfront. How do we mitigate the impact on access and ingress to the waterfront from construction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct or tunnel?

Second, regarding the concept of financing through the use of public/private partnerships, could you provide us with options, lessons learned, and processes you would recommend?

Third, I am interested in the broader economic impacts of construction. How could we mitigate the adverse impacts of construction?

Fourth, you suggested that there were design tools available that might decrease the cost of the projects. Would you please provide me with specific suggestions on design options that WSDOT should explore with the Federal Highway Administration?

Fifth, I have asked WSDOT to develop new cost estimates based upon your recommendations. I would like you to review those updated cost estimates for accuracy and determine whether your conclusions regarding the finance assumptions change with new cost estimates.

Finally, I am directing WSDOT to review your recommendations and provide me with a plan to implement them. I would like to have the opportunity to review the status of that implementation with you on a quarterly basis.

Thanks again for your hard work on these challenging issues.

Sincerely,

Chris

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor