



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 7, 2000**

**Motion 10881**

**Proposed No.** 2000-0134.3

**Sponsors** Vance

1                   A MOTION requesting the Washington state  
2                   Transportation Commission and Washington state  
3                   Department of Transportation to revise their policies  
4                   concerning restrictions on the operation of high occupancy  
5                   vehicle lanes.

6  
7                   WHEREAS, the state of Washington owns and operates the state highway system  
8                   under the jurisdiction of the Washington state Transportation Commission and  
9                   Washington state Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and

10                   WHEREAS, the state highway system includes a network of high occupancy  
11                   vehicle (HOV) lanes on Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, State Route 520 and  
12                   State Route 167, and

13                   WHEREAS, the WSDOT operating policy for HOV lanes calls for restricting use  
14                   by single-occupant vehicles at all times, and

15                   WHEREAS, revisions to the WSDOT HOV operating policy are currently under  
16                   review by the Washington state Transportation Commission, and the commission has  
17                   requested input from local and regional governments, and

18 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Regional Council is currently updating the  
19 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and any modifications or improvements needed to the  
20 HOV system must be incorporated into the plan, and

21 WHEREAS, most states with HOV lanes do not use full-time restrictions and  
22 California, which uses full-time restrictions only in the Los Angeles area, is considering  
23 changing to hourly restrictions on many highways, and

24 WHEREAS, studies by the Washington state Transportation Center (TRAC) have  
25 shown that unrestricted use of the HOV lanes during off-peak hours could reduce midday  
26 congestion on certain highways, and

27 WHEREAS, the TRAC studies also found locations where highways  
28 improvements would be necessary before allowing unrestricted use of HOV lanes during  
29 off-peak hours, and

30 WHEREAS, Interstate 5 and Interstate 90 have two or more reversible lanes that  
31 change direction from inbound to Seattle in the morning to outbound in the afternoon,  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, changing directions of the reversible lanes on weekends and for  
34 special events would help to reduce congestion.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

36 The King County council requests the Washington state Transportation  
37 Commission and Washington state Department of Transportation to take the following  
38 steps to help reduce traffic congestion in King County:

39 A. Allow the use of HOV lanes by all traffic during the midday, night, and on  
40 weekends for a demonstration period not to exceed one (1) year on highways where such

41 operations can be accommodated without modifications to the facility, and where such  
42 operations can be accommodated while retaining existing state standards for speed and  
43 reliability for high occupancy vehicles. If such speed and reliability are not met the  
44 highway should revert back to exclusive HOV operations, and

45 B. Increase fines for HOV lane violations and call upon the Washington State  
46 Patrol to develop and implement a new more aggressive enforcement program for HOV  
47 lanes, and

48 C. Determine what improvements would be necessary to accommodate off-peak  
49 HOV use by all traffic on highways needing modification, and prioritize the  
50 improvements for implementation, and

51 D. Consult transit operating agencies in the placement of HOV lanes  
52 (inside/outside, and regional locations), capital project selection and operating policy, and

53 E. Provide staffing necessary to allow changes of direction on the Interstate 5 and  
54 Interstate 90 reversible lanes on weekends, and

55 F. Develop a plan to allow for automation of the operation of the reversible lanes,  
56 and prioritize such improvements for implementation, and

57 G. Establish a process for evaluating the performance of the selected highway(s)  
58 before and during the demonstration period. Following the demonstration period, make  
59 further adjustments to HOV operating hours to ensure the fast, reliable movement of high  
60 occupancy vehicles. The provisions for the demonstration should clearly identify the  
61 basis upon which future operating policies will be established, and by whose authority.

62 BE IT FURTHER MOVED:

63 The Puget Sound Regional Council is hereby requested to reopen the policy board

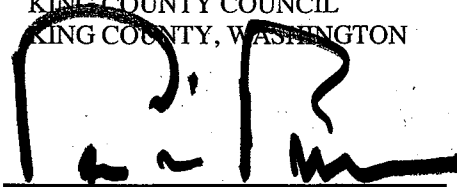
64 discussions about HOV operating policies and incorporate these modifications and other  
65 necessary improvements to allow part-time restrictions on HOV lanes in King County.

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Motion 10881 was introduced on 2/7/00 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/6/00, by the following vote:

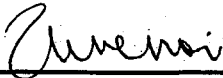
Yes: 6 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons  
No: 5 - Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Nickels and Mr. Gossett  
Excused: 2 - Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments** None