



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 22, 2012

Motion 13647

Proposed No. 2012-0105.1

Sponsors Dunn, Phillips, Ferguson, Hague,
Gossett, Patterson, Lambert, von Reichbauer
and McDermott

1 A MOTION supporting efforts of the Mountains to Sound
2 Greenway Trust to gain designation as a National Heritage
3 Area and urging Congress to approve such designation.

4 WHEREAS, in 1990, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club led a citizens march from
5 Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront to dramatize the need for a greenway plan, and

6 WHEREAS, in 1991, the nonprofit Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust was
7 formed, still governed to this day by a sixty-member board of directors representing a
8 diversity of conservation, development, businesses and local, state and federal interests,
9 with the goal of creating a one-hundred-mile-long Greenway along Interstate 90 from the
10 Seattle waterfront and across the Cascades, and

11 WHEREAS, in 1998, Federal Highway Administration designated the Mountains
12 to Sound Greenway as a National Scenic Byway, wherein certain roads receive
13 recognition from the U.S. Department of Transportation based on archaeological,
14 cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities, and

15 WHEREAS, today within its 1.5 million acres, more than nine hundred thousand
16 acres of land are publicly owned, from city parks to expansive public forests, more than
17 one hundred thousand acres are conserved as permanent forests and farms in private

18 ownership, there are over one thousand six hundred miles of recreational trails, twenty-
19 eight cities and 1.8 million people, and

20 WHEREAS, the greenway is often heralded as a national model for conservation
21 and land use, showcasing successful efforts weaving together the urban and the wild
22 landscapes of the 1.5 million acres surrounding Interstate 90, including the fifteenth-
23 largest metropolis in the United States, and

24 WHEREAS, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has been uniquely
25 successful in acting as a shepherd for the greenway and that it has the capacity and the
26 support needed to be the local coordinating entity for the Mountains to Sound Greenway
27 National Heritage Area, and

28 WHEREAS, in 2009, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust board announced a
29 plan to gain National Heritage Area designation for the greenway - a federal designation
30 meant to highlight a unique feature or local history, and

31 WHEREAS, while there are currently forty-nine National Heritage Areas, the
32 designation of the greenway would be the first in Washington state, and

33 WHEREAS, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust began the effort by first
34 identifying and cataloging the stories that shape its heritage, and then hosting more than
35 one hundred forty public meetings from which there emerged a clear consensus from
36 over one thousand stakeholders that the greenway will benefit enormously from such a
37 designation, and

38 WHEREAS, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust released a draft feasibility
39 study dated January 2012, and

40 WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as landscapes
41 wherein historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism
42 and educational projects can be more easily supported through public-private
43 partnerships, and

44 WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is not a unit of the U.S. National Park
45 Service, and no land is owned, managed or regulated by the U.S. National Park Service,
46 which acts rather to provide advisory and technical assistance and distribute matching
47 federal funds from Congress to National Heritage Area entities, and

48 WHEREAS, National Heritage Area designation of the greenway would provide
49 increased access to private funds and federal matching funds and technical assistance
50 from the U.S. National Park Service, and

51 WHEREAS, while National Heritage Area designation for the greenway could
52 increase public awareness of and strengthen conservation efforts within the greenway, the
53 designation does not affect private property rights, legislate new public lands or add land-
54 use regulations or more regulatory authority for lands within the greenway;

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

56 The council supports and endorses the efforts of the Mountains to Sound
57 Greenway Trust

58 to gain official recognition for the greenway, and urges Congress to designate the
59 Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area.

60

Motion 13647 was introduced on 3/5/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/19/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.
McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None