

PROTECT GOOD JOBS

CONSTRUCT A MODERN ECONOMY

The Legislature has acted in recent years to lay the groundwork for improving our transportation infrastructure and staffing, streamlining oversight of energy projects, and encouraging construction of information-economy infrastructure, like data centers.

THE PROBLEM

Investments in private sector job growth are threatened by revenue shortfalls, federal funding cuts, and international trade policies that undermine our state's economic stability. Without state funding, Washington risks losing opportunities to put people to work maintaining and improving roads, bridges, energy facilities, data networks, and more.



THE SOLUTION

The legislature should act this session to preserve transportation infrastructure, advance modern energy and manufacturing work, and support workers in the information economy. Legislators should use Climate Commitment Act dollars to create union, clean-energy jobs. They should invest in predictable maintenance and limit reductions to tax incentives that put people to work building data infrastructure. **Above all, legislators should make every effort to avoid costly decisions that save pennies today but will cost dollars tomorrow.**

- **Maintenance and preservation investments haven't kept up with need.** 40% of Washington's roads are overdue for paving. 10% of our bridge spans are more than 80 years old. More Washingtonians are using our state's ferry system, but the aging fleet and retiring workforce can't meet this new demand. As a result, closures and cancellations impact the public state-wide when funding doesn't meet the need, and WSDOT can't hire qualified sailors.
- **Washington's families need infrastructure investments now.** Record floods have devastated transportation infrastructure in Chelan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties. Critical access roads and highways have washed away or been obstructed by tons of debris.
- **Limiting tax incentive reductions for the data economy helps sustain jobs and ensures more of the nation's data infrastructure is built in Washington, a state with high community and environmental standards.** States across the U.S. are in fierce competition for data infrastructure projects; reductions in tax incentives risk fewer projects built and maintained in Washington. That means fewer jobs – and potentially, more infrastructure built in states without the robust environmental protections and standards projects must adhere to in our state, a net-loss for climate resiliency.

Citation: Washington State Standard, "What to know about WA Gov. Bob Ferguson's \$3B transportation spending plan" (December 19, 2025)

Learn more at wslc.org

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