



**Jan Drago**  
Seattle City Councilmember  
Chair, Transportation Committee

June 29, 2009

Grace Crunican, Director  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
Floor 38, Seattle Municipal Tower  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Dear Director *Crunican*,

I would like to express my deep concerns about negative impact the removal of the Employee Head Tax (EHT) would have on our neighborhoods. Currently, the EHT provides and is projected to provide the Department of Transportation a minimum of \$4.5 million annually towards smaller, "pay as you go" projects and debt service.

I am committed to full funding of the projects promised under the Bridging the Gap Levy. I also support the elimination of the Employee Head Tax. Helping to stabilize our small businesses and helping to pull Seattle out of economic recession are of the utmost importance. However, it is not clear from the proposal that all projects and programs slated for completion under Bridging the Gap Phase 1 will receive full funding.

The Employee Head Tax has been a critical contributor to smaller, pedestrian- and neighborhood-oriented projects, and the City must fulfill its obligation not only to BTG's Major Projects, but to these small and important plans as well.

I am requesting a specific plan from the Seattle Department of Transportation outlining how it will backfill all missing funding that results from the elimination of the Employee Head Tax. I want this information in the form of a written memo to me, as well as a briefing at our July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Transportation Committee.

Sincerely,

*Jan*  
Jan Drago

cc: Seattle City Councilmembers  
Mayor Greg Nickels