

RESOLUTION NO. 562
GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has held that the existing contract between the State of Washington and United Infrastructure of Washington to build, repair, and maintain bridges across the Tacoma Narrows is unenforceable, because it violates existing laws prohibiting the reimposition of tolls upon transportation facilities which have been previously paid for with tolls, and because it violates existing laws requiring that any lawful tolls be collected by authorized public toll authorities; and

WHEREAS, the contract rejected by the Washington Supreme Court is also flawed because it was negotiated without fixed specifications or public competitive bidding to the lowest responsible bidder, which has caused estimates of cost to soar far beyond any reasonable cost to the public for such vital public facilities;
NOW THEREFORE

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Gig Harbor expresses its strong opposition to repeal or amendment of existing state laws prohibiting the reimposition of tolls upon a facility which has been paid for by tolls, and its strong opposition to repeal or -amendment of existing laws requiring collection of any tolls authorized by law to be done by lawful public authorities.

The Council further expresses its strong opposition to use of negotiated contracting authority for bridge construction, including construction over the Tacoma Narrows, without open public competitive bidding and award to the lowest responsible bidder upon approved specifications.

The Council further requests that the Legislature preserve these existing laws in order to preserve equal protection of the laws for communities which have paid for a major capital transportation project through user fees, in addition to continued payment of all transportation taxes in common with other citizens of the state whose transportation facilities have been purchased and maintained with tax dollars. If one community is required to pay for its major capital transportation projects through tolls, in addition to paying the same taxes as required from all other communities, it should not be required to pay tolls or user fees for improvements, repairs or maintenance to that project until other communities for whom facilities have been constructed, repaired and maintained by taxes have been required to share equally under the law.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2001.

GRETCHEN A. WILBERT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Molly M. Towslee, City Clerk

Passed by Council: 1/22/01