RESOLUTION NO. 13-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, IN STRONG SUPPORT OF A 2013 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PACKAGE

WHEREAS, a healthy transportation system is a critical foundation of our state and local economies and our quality of life, as well as our global position as the nation's most trade-dependent state; and

WHEREAS, Washington state's transportation system is suffering from disrepair, with a backlog of maintenance and preservation needs, and data showing that without any new investments, more than half the pavement on our state roads and highways will be in poor condition by 2023; and

WHEREAS, failing roads and bridges, congested highway corridors, and bottlenecked interchanges undermine the mobility of vehicles, buses, and freight-carriers to transport people and goods; and

WHEREAS, the Connecting Washington Task Force released a report in early 2012, identifying $50 billion in unfunded transportation needs and recommending an investment of $21 billion in state funding during the next 10 years for maintenance, preservation, and strategic investments; and

WHEREAS, investing in maintaining and upgrading our transportation system is a positive step the Legislature can take to catalyze construction jobs, enhance freight mobility for our Ports, and create a pathway for retaining and growing new jobs for key industry sectors; and

WHEREAS, through SHB 1954, SHB 1955 and related bills, the 2013 Washington State Legislature is considering a 12-year, $9.5 billion package of transportation infrastructure investments; and

WHEREAS, this package provides critical funding for key highway corridor projects throughout the state, including the opportunity to secure funding for State Route 516 from Jenkins Creek to 185th Avenue Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the transportation package also provides a direct gas tax distribution that will provide new funding each year for the City of Covington to maintain local roadways and arterials and to leverage existing funding; and

WHEREAS, the package also includes local transportation financing options that cities and counties can submit to their voters for transportation improvements in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the transportation package additionally invests in grant programs that are vital for cities and counties, including the Transportation Investment Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), "Complete Streets," Safe Routes to Schools, and Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety; and

WHEREAS, the package also includes direct funding allocations for transit agencies, including King County Metro Transit, that would otherwise have to make drastic cuts in routes which carry people to work sites and serve local communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Covington strongly encourages the Washington State Legislature to enact a balanced transportation investment package, in Olympia, during the Special Session to create jobs, relieve congestion, support our businesses, and maintain our quality of life.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Covington, King County, Washington, as follows:

Section 1. The Covington City Council takes an official position in strong support of a comprehensive transportation investment package, including direct funding and funding options for local governments.

Section 2. The Covington City Council strongly encourages lawmakers to approve and enact this package in Olympia.

PASSED in open and regular session on this 28th day of May, 2013.

Margaret Harto

MARGARET HARTO, MAYOR

ATTESTED:

Sharon Scott, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sara Springer, City Attorney