## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS WASHINGTON COUNCIL - ISSUE BRIEF



### **KEY POINTS**

- Projected \$2.78 billion transferred out of the Capital Budget from 2007-2019, damaging infrastructure, schools, and design and construction jobs.
- Taxes originally levied for funding local and state government infrastructure should be used for that expressed purpose, not directed into the general fund.
- Stop future transfers and restore the money intended for education facility investments.
- Every billion dollars transferred from the capital budget to general governmental spending causes a net loss of 1,000 jobs and \$55 million in wages.

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# **INVEST IN FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### Capital Budget Transfers Cost the State Jobs and Wages

From 2007 through 2019, an estimated \$2.78 billion will be transferred out of the capital budget to the general fund.

A 2011 study, conducted by a Bellevue-based research firm, found that every billion dollars transferred from the capital budget to general governmental spending causes a net loss of 1,000 jobs and \$55 million in wages.

There are health, safety, and environmental concerns as infrastructure development halts while populations continue to rise.

In order to backfill the promises to these projects, money is taken from other areas of the capital budget affecting community colleges, universities, critical local infrastructure and more. Thus, Washington's overall infrastructure is weakened and jobs are lost.

The state supreme court has ordered that the state must invest over \$700 million in K-3 construction to meet the mandates of the McCleary decision. That entire investment and more would be paid for simply by leaving the money in the capital budget.

It is time for the state to plan for the future and support new design and construction projects by adequately investing in our community's health and safety.

# Support HB 2244 & SB 6546 – Protects Infrastructure Investments and Invests in Education Facilities

*House Sponsors: Rep. Stanford, DeBolt, Dunshee, MacEwen, Appleton, Morrell, Blake, Pollet and Ormsby* 

Senate Sponsors: Sen. Rivers, Keiser, Mullet, Brown, Dansel, Hasegawa, Eide, Liias, Hatfield, Hobbs, Angel, Conway, O'Ban, Ericksen, Parlette, Pearson, Billig, Padden, Becker, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Chase, McCoy, and McAuliffe

HB 2244 and SB 6546 seek to end the infrastructure fund transfers early. Currently the transfers are in place through 2019. These bills stop the transfers in 2015. In addition, they would restore past transfers and invest the funds in school construction and higher education facility improvements.

The AIA|WA encourages lawmakers to fulfill their promise of these critical programs and pass these common-sense reforms.

#### Support HJR 4215 – Protects Public Works Assistance Account Investments

Sponsors: Rep. Warnick, Dunshee, DeBolt, MacEwen, Manweller, Stanford, Condotta, Reykdal, Fagan, Buys, and Freeman

HJR 4215 would put a constitutional amendment before the voters to protect the Public Works Assistance Account revenue sources from being diverted to other purposes. The legislature has consistently swept the funds and diverted revenue away from critical infrastructure investments. HJR 4215 would restore the integrity of this fund.

AIA|WA urges lawmakers to support this constitutional amendment and submit it to the people for a vote.



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