Preliminary Senate Jobs Proposal

Objectives:

* Take advantage of low construction prices by accelerating construction of essential public capital assets--do projects now that will be more expensive later.
* Invest in projects and programs that will improve the shape of our recovery.
* Invest in projects that benefit future operating budgets.
* Boost construction employment ahead of the recovery.

Financing Strategy:

* General obligation bonds are at their maximum working limit.
* Use of revenue bonds provides an opportunity to achieve the objectives without committing future operating budget resources.
* Because revenue bonds are new to the state, take a conservative approach: limit complexity, have strong coverage with reliable revenues, proceed with diligence in designing, authorizing and implementing the financing.
* Don't over-commit revenues that support ongoing programs.

Three Revenue Bonds:

* Public Infrastructure and training facilities for economic development - debt service from solid waste tax allocated to public works assistance account. Investment examples include: export related infrastructure, Main Street grants, CERB, infrastructure related to Innovation Partnership Zones, major equipment for high demand programs in higher education, skills centers.
* Water quality and safe drinking water - debt service from public utility tax allocated to public works assistance account. Investment examples include: wastewater treatment, flood and drought investments, and safe drinking water.
* Environmental clean-up and restoration - debt service from hazardous substance tax. Investment examples include: Toxic site clean-up, storm water improvements, and minor investments in forest health, Puget Sound shoreline restoration, and culvert replacement.

Other Fund Sources:

* Higher Education facilities bonds backed by building fees - Complete projects already designed or underway.
* Public Works Assistance Account - Supplemental Public Works Board loan list.
* Reinvest general obligation bond savings to complete critical repairs and complete projects currently in design.