

# Keeping Communities Connected

King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert  
November 17, 2015



# King County

- 2 Million Residents – 250K in the unincorporated area
- Nearly 1,500 miles of roadway and 181 bridges
- More than 1,000,000 vehicle trips a day on our roads
- **Half** of the trips on the high volume roads come from cities and other counties
- County roads connect cities & counties

**1,486 miles county  
maintained roads**

- All State Routes/Hwys and US Hwys
- All County Roads

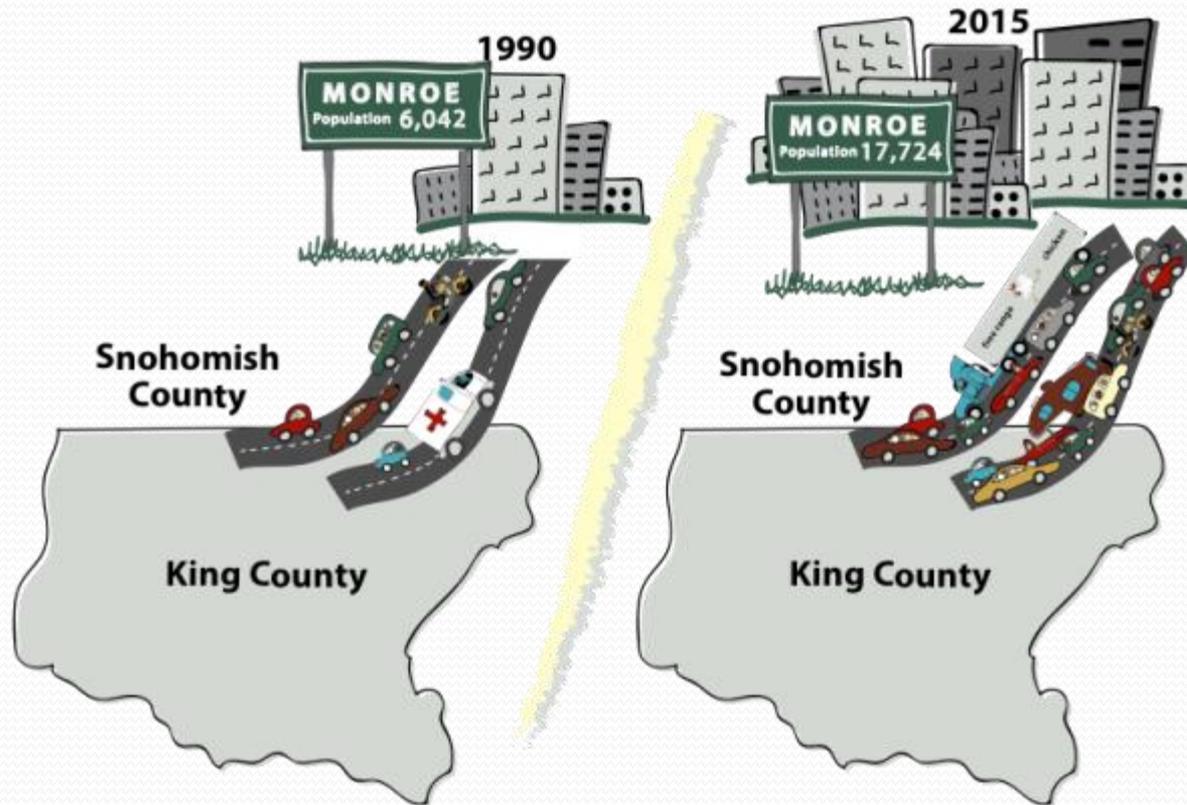
# 1,200 miles - Canada to Mexico

Canada



Mexico

# 40% of Snohomish County Residents work in King County

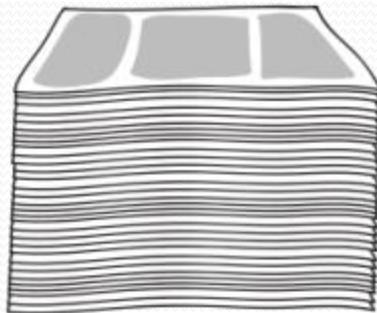


# Revenue Challenges



property tax

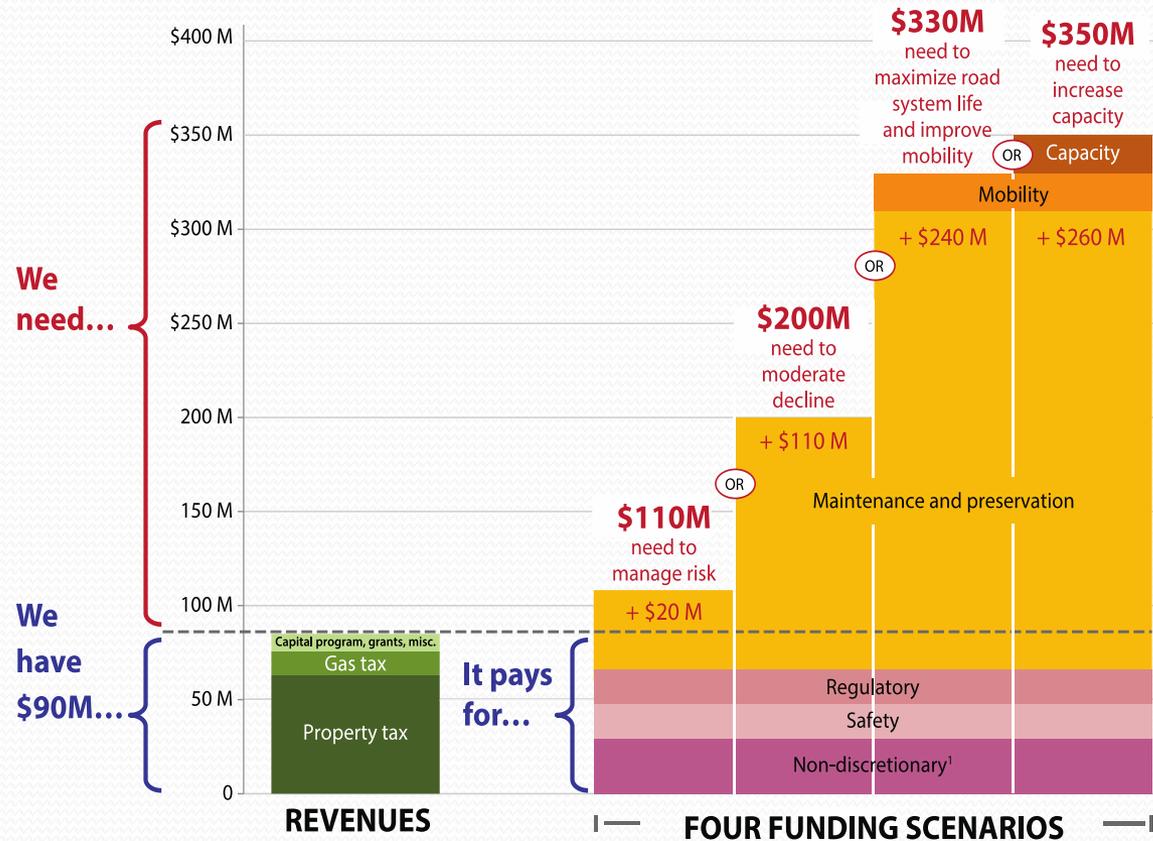
gas tax



grants

# Roads Funding is Inadequate to Meet Needs 2012 Data

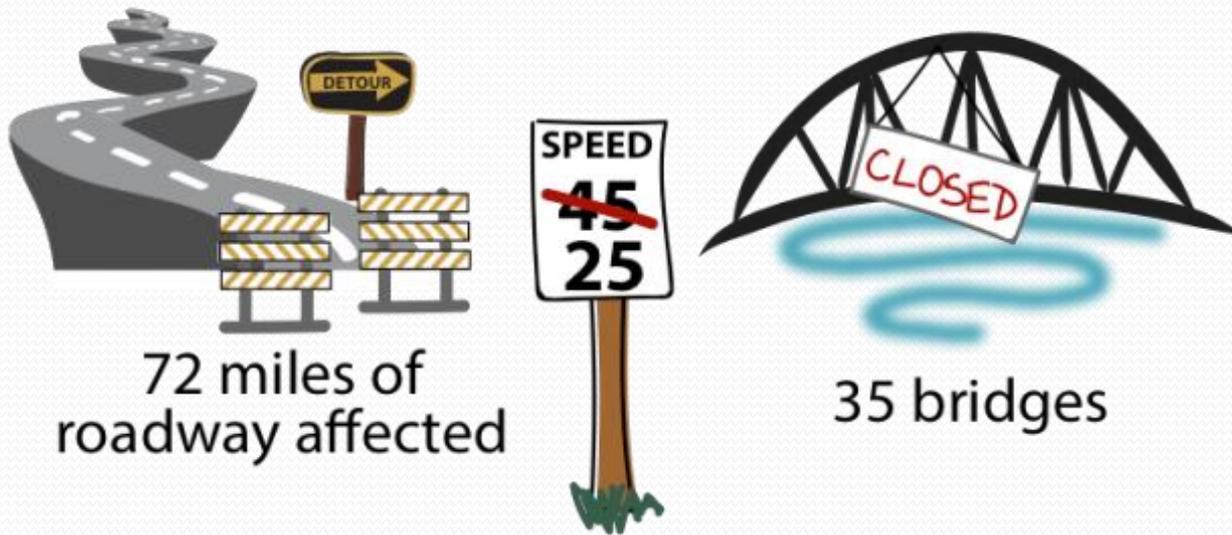
## Road system needs and annual funding shortfall



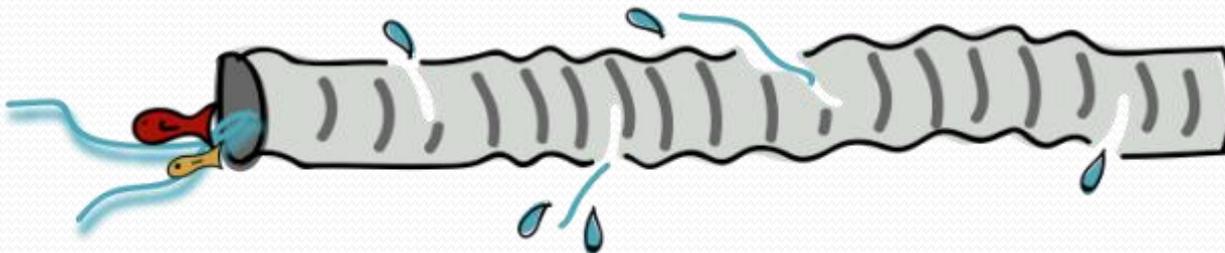
# Consequences of Revenue Decline

- Maintenance activities decline with a 45% reduction in staffing and revenue reductions of more than one third.
- Reduced maintenance shortens the life of the assets – bridge and road conditions declining.
- Funds focused on critical safety and clean water activities, limited preservation work.
- No funding for rebuilding aging roads and bridges.
- Unable to address congestion, with a million more people expected regionally.

# Consequences over the next couple of decades



65% of stormwater system will be at risk



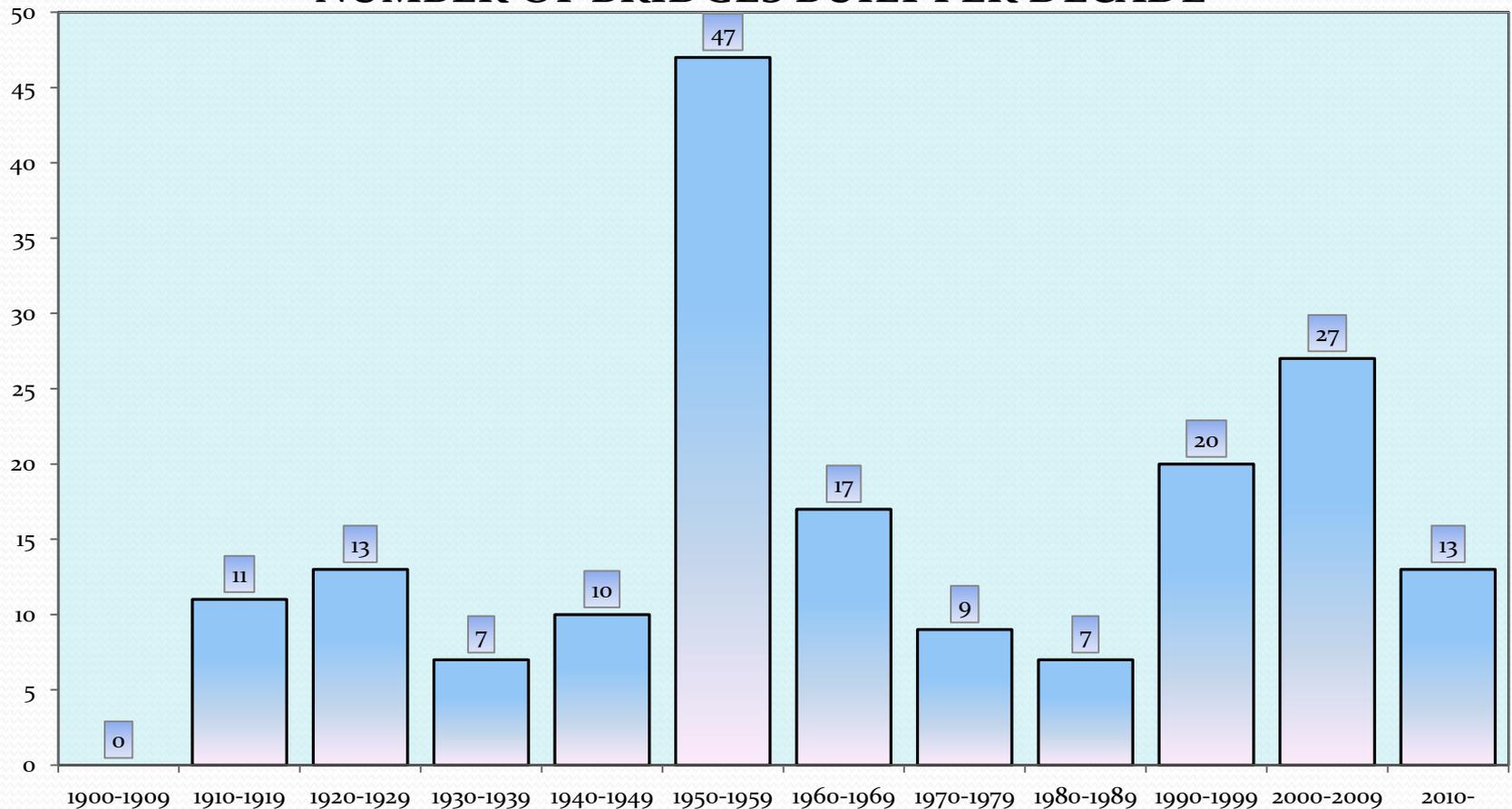
# Bridges in unincorporated King County

- Oldest bridge was built in **1913**
- **181** bridges
- **30** bridges need replacing by 2030 for a rough cost of **\$190 million**.



# Why do we need to replace them?

**2015 KING COUNTY BRIDGE INVENTORY  
NUMBER OF BRIDGES BUILT PER DECADE**





# Planned Bridge Replacements Next 5 Years

Zero

# What Did We Do?

- Focused on county roads & critical safety services
- Reduced and reorganized staff (more than 260 positions were cut)
- Consolidated maintenance & office facilities
- Reduced vehicles, equipment & services
- Leveraged technology to reduce staffing needs
- Implemented process improvements to reduce cost of work and improve timeliness
- Formed partnerships – WSDOT for example

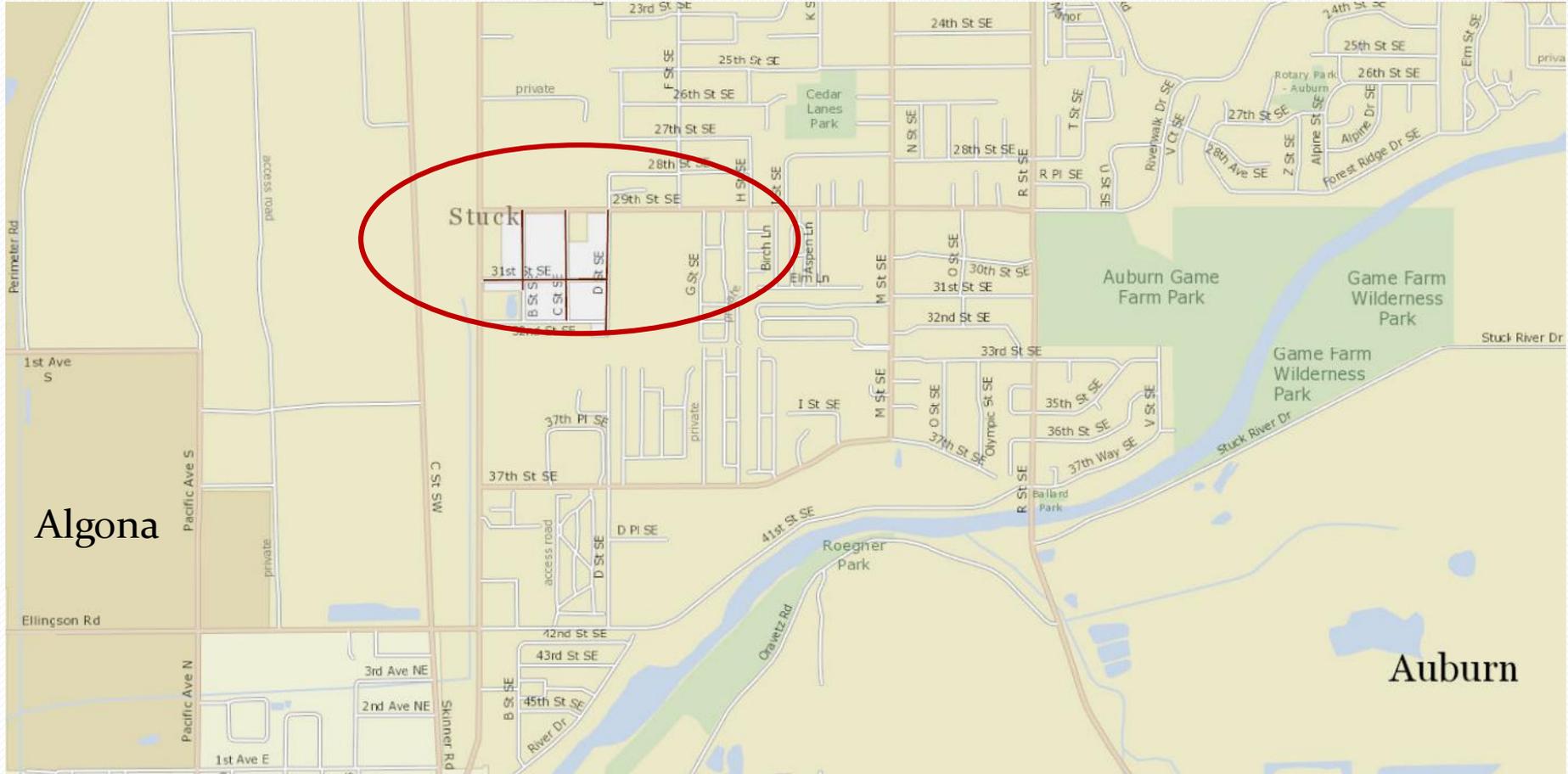
# Bridges & Roads Task Force

## Draft Efficiency Recommendations

- Incorporate county roads that are orphaned, islands of roads within cities, and Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) that are within the growth boundaries of cities into those jurisdictions.



# Auburn Orphaned Roads Within Small PAA



# Bridges & Roads Task Force

## Draft Efficiency Recommendations

- Increase the amount of work that county crews can perform “in-house” without having to go to bid with contractors where it saves dollars and time.
- Update outdated state statutes for local roads, including the county road engineer laws to reflect current day technology and practices.

# Bridges & Roads Task Force

## Draft Revenue Recommendations

- New revenue is needed for the city and county roads.
- City and County elected officials should consider seeking additional revenue authority.
- Consider additional authority for property taxes, revenue based on vehicle values, and/or county-wide revenue options that are progressive, tied to inflation, sustainable long-term, and provide a benefit to cities and the County.