

I-0577-001

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Submitted on: 10/19/2006 2:12:00 PM

Comment Category: 6-Lane Alternative Options

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

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Comment:

The plan to build the off ramp on the north side of the canal, between the stadium and the canal, over the UW Waterfront Activities Center and the UW Climbing Rock, is an unacceptable alternative.

We need an improved structure, not a different place for the same problems to manifest themselves. Let's not disrupt the very thing we hold a job for. Let's not put eviscerate our community by taking away our ability to partake in community activities and facilities. Let's find another way to improve HWY520 that doesn't obliterate our parks and past-times.

The people heading the development of the re-imagined HWY520 need to build a structure that is sustainable within the community and also sustains the community by reducing dangerous traffic load, while being complimentary to the various practical and social needs of that community. Getting to work should hold the same importance as providing positive experiences and memories for our children and community, such experiences as available through the canal area's facilities and features.

This plan intrudes on an area set aside for the community to engage in all sorts of activities - walking in serenity, playing Frisbee while talking with friends, practicing safe climbing on one of the country's premier rocks, using the Waterfront Activities Center for the introduction to nautical skills or development of nautical skill. And all of these reflective and concentration intensive activities depend on the remoteness from HWY 520.

Who will take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to build character and improve the soul of the community leaders of tomorrow if there are freeway ramps projecting the deafening sound of automobile engines, exhaust, and compression brakes, and the shrill sound of tires running fast over pavement 24 hours a day? With volumes especially high - painfully high - during the time of day between work and dark, precisely when people - students, children, parents, anyone who uses the area for respite from the rushed pace of life - have the time to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

There are other ways to decongest traffic in the area. There are other ways to make it easier for folks to get to work. Let's not sacrifice our sanity at the expense of a streamlined path to work. People still need a place to get away without having to leave their neighborhood. People still need a safe place for their children to play, where cars won't startle important lessons, such as teaching a child how to throw and catch a baseball or how to play tag.

What's going to happen to the area's community, if that community no longer has a place to convene? Is it necessary to destroy the communities that have evolved around the park and climbing wall and waterfront activities center? I think not.

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Comment Summary:

6-Lane Alternative

Response:

See Section 1.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.