

Online Comment by User: jhutch

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Comment Category: General Comments

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: 2158 E. Shelby, Seattle, WA 98112

Comment:

I-0579-001

I am writing to add my general comments regarding the bridge replacement project. I am a long time resident of Montlake, having lived here for many years. I am writing to implore you NOT to consider the Pacific Interchange option in the plans to replace 520. I believe that experts in traffic engineering, not private citizens, should determine the lane size and construction details of the 520 replacement. My only concern in choosing lane size is that it should be considered as part of a solution to the overall transportation and traffic flow problems of the region. As a commuter, I am aware that I-5 is usually at gridlock much of the day, so adding multiple additional lanes to 520 may do nothing to speed the flow of traffic into and out of downtown Seattle. The Pacific Interchange option has been touted by members of the Montlake community club as being the preferred choice of Montlake residents. Nothing could be further from the truth. It has never been voted on by the community as a whole. Virtually all the neighbors in Montlake I have spoken with are opposed to the Pacific interchange. It's construction, with a huge new bridge across Union Bay, would be a visual disaster for one of the few pristine natural waterways and bays remaining in Seattle. It will cause a negative impact on the surrounding communities, not just of Montlake, but also of Laurelhurst and the University neighborhood. It will lead to greater noise pollution across the entire area. One can barely imagine the havoc it will wreck on wildlife now living in the bay and surrounding marshes and wetlands. Currently the area is filled with beaver, muskrats, bald eagles, cormorants, great blue herons, salmon, perch, turtles, and many species of migrating birds. Having such animals living near us is a treasure which should be preserved and cannot be recreated after the area is destroyed. This is one of the wonderful and unique assets of this area and one whose destruction or upheaval should not be undertaken lightly, even if these long term animal residents of Montlake cannot write to you or cast their opinions. Finally, a new bridge and interchange will only move the traffic and congestion north of the ship canal, destroy a park like setting south of Husky stadium, create further parking difficulties for the UW, and do nothing to improve traffic flow between University Village and Montlake.

In summary, it is my hope you will choose the bridge configuration with the least adverse impact on the Montlake neighborhood. Whatever you choose, I and my Montlake neighbors implore you NOT to deface or destroy Union Bay with another bridge whose construction will be a sad day for all of Seattle.

Thanks for your consideration. John Hutchinson 329 4529

I-0579-001

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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