

I-0734-001

Online Comment by User: MicheleLeCompte

Submitted on: 10/30/2006 5:43:00 PM

Comment Category: Transportation and Traffic

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: , , 98102

Comment:

I received the notification for the September 18th meeting for public comments by US mail on the evening of the 18th.

I have read through the EIS and wanted to voice objection to the Pacific Interchange option as it appears detrimental to the Arboretum. Seattle is considered to be a scenic and environmentally conscious location; however, to impact a park of historical significance seems to be the antithesis of what Seattle stands for. Once the park is impacted, we will not regain the space created by the Olmstead brothers. Not only does this option cover over native environments, but the staging for this option creates a larger footprint of impact.

Additionally, many other countries have a foundation of public transportation in the larger metropolitan areas. For example, Stockholm, Sweden has a subway system that can take you into town during rush times in 10 minutes, while driving a vehicle would take over one hour. Mayor Nickels has been espousing ways to help the environment and touts Seattle as "forward thinking." I do not feel building a 6 lane highway for a future with an uncertainty for the use of single occupancy vehicles is a sound decision. By making it easier for people to drive cars, we are in essence encouraging more people to drive. I endorse the four lane proposal, with the safety curbs; however, would like 2 of the lanes to be utilized solely by public transit. Everyone taking public transit could make it to Seattle in about 15 minutes. As drivers are passed by buses or trains while they are sitting in a single occupancy vehicle, it may give them more encouragement to take the public transportation.

It astounds me that we are considering paving over our precious park land and adversely impacting the beauty of our region for eternity for the convenience of an automobile. Our region does not seem so forward thinking.

I-0734-001

Comment Summary:

4-Lane Alternative

Response:

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