

I-1143-001

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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

I-1143-001

From: B K [mailto:bevkleher@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 5:22 PM
To: Millon, John
Subject: 520 Bridge

This letter is written in protest of the proposed six-lane Pacific Interchange and the adverse impact it would have on the University of Washington, the Union Bay ecosystem, and the surrounding neighborhoods and residents. I am particularly concerned about the following:

1. Construction of an exit ramp bringing traffic across from the University of Washington Hospital and Sports Complex will, in effect, ruin access for two of the most important assets of the University. It has taken years of special programs to recruit world class faculty and garner vast research dollars to establish the Medical Complex as one of the top medical facilities in the nation. Feeding more cars into this delicate area will degrade its status and no longer allow it to serve the public properly. As a result, Hospital revenues to the State will decline.
2. The Pacific Interchange will add an enormous 110-foot concrete structure over the delicate ecosystem of Union Bay, home to a multitude of rare species of fowl and a protected spawning area for salmon. Both Union Bay and the Arboretum – treasured resources of our City and State – would be devastated and destroyed.
3. Residents who live in Seattle's most populated neighborhoods – Laurelhurst, View Ridge, Windermere, Ravenna, University District, Wedgwood, Wallingford and Fremont – as well as those in Madison Park and Broadmoor, have all spoken in strong opposition to the six-lane Pacific Interchange option. These neighborhoods are critical to the City of Seattle, and their residents are the biggest taxpayers of the City's healthy schools. Increasing traffic from commuters to use the City by day and pay taxes elsewhere by night is detrimental to the economy of Seattle. In addition, family populations continue to decrease in Seattle, and a declining tax base will become an even greater problem when people leave these affected neighborhoods in droves, further impacting the integrity of Seattle's public schools. Last but not least, property values will decline as a result of increased noise, pollution, lighting and traffic, and lost view corridors.
4. The six-lane Pacific Interchange will further exacerbate current traffic patterns, causing intolerable back-ups along street surfaces that cannot absorb additional vehicles. This proposal would allow an additional 20,000 cars daily to access this area, which includes another popular destination - the University Village. This area is already over capacity, and it is simply unimaginable to think what might happen if this project is approved.
5. While this may be considered a minor issue by some, another casualty of this project is Husky Football. The six-lane Pacific Interchange will necessitate the reduction or relocation of the parking lots surrounding Husky Stadium, which will severely impact the use of these facilities by loyal Husky fans and guests. The Stadium and its parking areas serve members of the public – 72,214 fans strong, including 48,000 season ticket holders and almost 5,400 heavily-contributing

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Tyee members – every game day. They should not be considered dispensable. In addition, there is a major improvement plan in the works for Husky Stadium, which will very likely be adversely affected by the six-lane Pacific Interchange option.

In order to ensure that we proceed in a thoughtful, appropriate and effective manner, I respectfully request the following:

I-1143-002

1. That a feasibility study, conducted by tunnel builders, be funded to evaluate the viability of a tube tunnel to connect SR 520 to the I-5 interchange.

I-1143-003

2. That a requirement be placed for mass transit and tolls on any 520 replacement.

I-1143-004

3. That a four-lane replacement for the 520 bridge be endorsed, maintaining the integrity of the environment, maximizing quality of life, protecting revenue generating institutions and minimizing noise, traffic, pollution and stress.

I-1143-005

4. That the massive and disruptive Pacific Street Interchange be rejected, therefore protecting the Arboretum, the Union Bay ecosystems, the University of Washington's Medical and Sports complexes, and the surrounding neighborhoods and residents.

I thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Mitchell (name under which I am registered to vote)
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I-1143-002

Comment Summary:

Tube/Tunnel Concepts

Response:

See Section 1.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

I-1143-003

Comment Summary:

Tolling Scenarios, Pricing, and Revenue

Response:

See Section 3.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

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Comment Summary:

4-Lane Alternative

Response:

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

I-1143-005

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