

I-0042-001

Online Comment by User: Barbara Mahoney

Submitted on: 10/31/2006 9:23:00 PM

Comment Category: Comments on Alternatives

Comment Location: Chapter-8, Page-1

Address: , , 98105

Comment:

Dear Governor Gregoir: In addition to my opposition to the damage to be caused by the larger 520 structures on the Washington Park wetlands I am also opposed to the large Pacific Street intersection.

The costs to the University would be huge. The design, proposed by our Montlake neighbors who very much dislike the University located so close to their neighborhood, is another example of folks thinking that the University deserves no voice and should serve as the dumping ground for all unpleasantness. The support of the proposal by those from the Eastside is also self-serving and near sighted.

The Pacific interchange option is of particular concern for numerous reasons. The years that the intersection would be under construction will cost the University and particularly the Health Sciences huge losses that will stretch far beyond the construction period.

- Access to health care is huge issue in the State. The UW Medical Center and Dental school serve a large number of citizens who can not afford to pay. To serve these people they must have physical access to the Medical Center and the Medical Center must have access to excess funds from paying patients to cover uncompensated and under compensated care like Medicaid. Those who can afford to pay will not be to physically reach the UW Medical Center or be so inconvenienced that they will go to other hospitals leaving the UWMC no longer in a position to be able to support itself. In future years these paying patients will be slow to return to the UWMC if they return at all. Patients tend to receive all their healthcare at one facility and rarely change.

- The UWMC engages is a tremendous amount of research, much of it involving human subjects. As physical access to the UWMC becomes more difficult patients will not be as interested in participating in research. As research subjects become less available we will see a loss of some researchers. This too will be difficult to reverse when the construction is complete.

- As the UWMC loses personnel and patients the educational mission runs the risk of being compromised for the lack of patients with the right mix of ailments available for learning.

- The UWMC has some of the nation's best nurses. They are very dedicated to the mission and work at the UW. But as it becomes more difficult to get to and from work (their parking lot is a proposed construction lay-down site) they will move to other hospitals. This is also true for other Health Sciences staff, technicians, etc.

- Over the construction period the losses to the University will be terrific, and sadly the recovery could take decades. Is the State willing to compensate the UW for their losses? Does the State want to participate in the potential loss of research funding and related

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Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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

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employment? Does the state want to be party to the potential denegation of the prestige of the UW and the accompanying loss of federal and private research funds?

As you know UW funding is a precarious balance of reputation that leads to outstanding recruitments that lead to research funding that leads back to enhancement of reputation, etc. The same holds true for attracting students, staff and patients. The web is complex and all parts must contribute or the web fails.

I ask that you consider the huge impact the Pacific interchange and the long construction process will have on the UW. Additionally, please consider that the impacts are likely to be long-term and possibly permanent losses.

Please do all that can be done to preserve the UW and allow it to continue to grow and be an increasingly important part of your state.

Thank you for allowing this comment.

Barbara Mahoney
206.524.6177

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The costs to the University would be huge. The design, proposed by our Montlake neighbors who very much dislike the University located so close to their neighborhood, is another example of folks thinking that the University deserves no voice and should serve as the dumping ground for all unpleasantness.

The interchange in particular is a concern for numerous reasons. The years that the intersection would be under construction will cost the University and particularly the Health Sciences huge losses that will stretch far beyond the construction period.

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- Over the construction period the losses to the University will be terrific, and sadly the recovery could take decades impacting patient access.