

I-0092-001

Online Comment by User: Catherine Allchin

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Address: , , 98105

Comment:

This letter is to voice our strong opposition to the preferred alternative (Pacific Interchange) to replace SR520 as outlined in WSDOT's recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We represent some Microsoft families who live in the Laurelhurst neighborhood. On weekdays, it takes at least a full hour to get to or from the Microsoft campus (only a 12-mile trip). We do believe that traffic on 520 and Montlake Blvd. is a real problem for the city and the state. However, we think the Pacific Interchange and 6-lane replacement bridge would be a huge setback for our region. The negative impacts on affected neighborhoods and natural areas are far too extreme. During the years of construction, we would essentially be trapped in Laurelhurst. Afterward, we'd be left with more traffic, more noise, and more pavement. (Even today, the noise from 520 off the lake is a real concern.) Despite our personal desire for a better commute, we strongly urge you to vote against this alternative. It is overkill.

The cost is far too high—both financially and in terms of our precious quality of life. With our children, we enjoy hiking, walking, kayaking and boating in the wetland areas. Every time we go there, we feel lucky to live in a major U.S. city that values its natural areas, where it's possible to see blue herons, turtles, and eagles inside the city limits. Seattle is undeniably a livable city—still. Let's keep it that way for our children's children.

We urge you to pursue a less invasive approach (like floating in replacement spans, doing necessary retrofitting, and prioritizing mass transit).

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Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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