

I-0099-001

**Online Comment by User: cholloway**

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Comment:

I am a citizen of Seattle; my grandmother lived in Madison Park and fought diligently to keep 520 from running through the Arboretum. Even now when I walk by the terminated off-ramps, I am amazed that we came so close to losing such a precious resource. I bless my grandmother every time I see those off ramps and am so grateful that we have this treasure with us.

I use the Arboretum extensively, for walking my dog and observing the seasons. I am an architect, and am well versed in urban planning, with an intense appreciation for both the environment and the Olmsted Legacy.

It has been documented that building more roads does not decrease traffic problems, but rather increases them. If driving is made convenient, people will drive; drivers will fill the roads until it becomes crowded enough to become inconvenient again. Then we will be left with the same problem, only on a larger scale. This is no legacy to leave our children.

If we as a City and as a State are interested in controlling air pollution, noise, global warming and transportation issues, we will continue to seek alternatives to transportation by means other than automobiles (most of these single occupant vehicles during the work week). Widening 520 is a solution that destroys an inner city resource, while INCREASING our transportation problems by adding to the number of vehicles on the roads.

In addition to the Arboretum, 520 is adjacent to an historic landmark: the Montlake Bridge and Montlake Cut. It is hard to imagine Opening Day, and the UW shell races being held adjacent to a 6 lane freeway. The noise and pollution created by this proposal would be another serious impact to a Seattle citizen's enjoyment of an historic Seattle landmark.

I also question the funding of a project which is relying on a tax transportation package that has not yet been approved by voters. This is spending money the State does not have. There has been no adequate addressing of how this project is to be paid for. Hopes and wishes do not constitute a responsible financial plan. I am reminded of the Monorail fiasco.

I strongly urge WSDOT to reconsider widening 520. It will seriously impact a fragile ecosystem, mar the enjoyment of two significant historic legacies, will not solve our transportation problems but serve to worsen them, and will throw us further into debt.

Constance Holloway, AIA, Seattle Chapter

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**Comment Summary:**

Arboretum (Concerns)

**Response:**

See Section 9.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.