

20 September 2006

Mr. Paul Kruger
Environmental Manager, SR 520 Project Office
414 Olive Way, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Kruger,

I-0378-001

We are writing this letter to support the Pacific Interchange Option as the preferred alternative for SR 520. We do not believe that any of the other DEIS alternatives represent a solution that matches the advantages of the Pacific Interchange.

We are new residents to the Montlake community, so we have come late into the debate with an open mind. It is clear to us after living in the area for 6 months that several features of the Pacific Interchange really stand out:

1. Linking various transportation projects including light rail and bus rapid transit at the new hub near Husky Stadium is important. I was a commuter from downtown Seattle to Redmond and always wondered why the focus of transportation improvements had such a North-South bias. This SR 520 project has the potential to re-balance the equation East-West.
2. The Montlake Bridge bottleneck is real and frustrating, as we make regular trips to University Village and Children's Hospital without any ability to plan how long to allow for the trips and their returns. Linking Pacific Avenue to SR 520 via the Pacific Interchange has the potential to reduce commute times better than any other plan I have read.
3. We live in Montlake Park and it is easy to feel disconnected from the rest of the Montlake community by the gash that is SR 520. As proposed by the Pacific Interchange, installing a lid over the highway offers the opportunity for Montlake to regain its integrated feel.

In addition:

1. We are not fans of the 4 lane alternative, because we believe that HOV lanes in each direction, coupled with bike lanes, are necessary to improve the transportation corridor.
2. Neither are we enthusiastic about the Base 6 lane option that appears to further widen the corridor through the Montlake neighborhood beyond any acceptable dimensions.

There is a real "perfect storm" coming for the State and our neighborhood as our politicians come to grips with long-delayed transportation and infrastructure improvements. Political will has been hard to find and public dollars even more difficult. The Pacific Interchange Option makes sense to us at a cost-benefit ratio that we personally could support. If the Pacific Interchange Option is not included in the final proposal, we predict significant difficulty to obtain public, political, and financial support

I-0378-001

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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

I-0378-001

from the members of our community. There is consensus on the advantages of the Pacific Interchange Option that should receive heavy weight in your assessments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Handwritten signatures of Sharon Stoll and Ralph Stoll in blue ink.

Sharon & Ralph Stoll
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