





University District Community Council  
4534 University Way N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98105

July 13, 2011

Victor Mendez  
Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Daniel M. Mathis  
Director, Washington Division FHWA  
711 Capitol Way # 501  
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: 4(f) Evaluation, SR 520 Bridge Replacement ... Project

Dear Administrator Mendez and Director Mathis:

The 6(f) Evaluation is solid, but the 4(f) Evaluation is a dud. Compare the 4(f) Evaluation to an electronic toy that comes in a package of parts and requires assembly; if the assembled parts doesn't work when turned on, there's something clearly wrong.

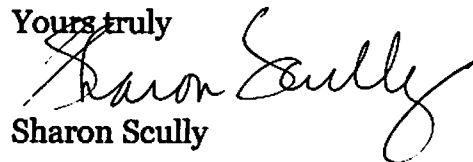
Here, the SR 520 project will take a large amount of park land that lies outside of the Section 6(f) properties, e.g. acres from McCurdy Park, East Montlake Park, and the informal park between Montlake Boulevard and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue East just north of the Montlake off-ramp from the westbound lane of SR 520. Yet, the 4(f) Evaluation offers nothing in return south of the Montlake Cut.

WSDOT owns acreage that once was part of the Arboretum and cleaves like a wedge into the Arboretum. It is now used for the arboretum ramps, which WSDOT plans to remove after construction is complete. That acreage needs to be returned to Arboretum use as replacement for the land taken by the SR 520 project outside the 6(f) properties and as mitigation for the adverse impacts of the new structure on the Arboretum.

This is so obvious and so important to the Arboretum that it can't be ignored. The 4(f) Evaluation does not show "... all possible planning to minimize harm to such park[s]..." as required by 23 USC 138 when it lets WSDOT keep that area for other highway uses, lease or sale. The 4(f) Evaluation can't be approved "as is." The Federal Highway Administration has to correct the WSDOT's failure in its record of decision, much like a parent often has to reassemble a toy that was not put together correctly.

Yours truly

Sharon Scully



CC: Paula Hammond, Secretary  
WSDOT