



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

July 18, 2011

Ms. Jenifer Young, Environmental Manager
SR 520 Project Office
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Randolph L. Everett
Federal Highway Administration
711 S. Capitol Way, Suite 501
Olympia, Washington 98501

Re: SR 520, I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Final
Environmental Impact Statement. Region 10 Project Number: 00-013-FHW.

Dear Ms. Young and Mr. Everett:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the SR 520, I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). We are submitting comments in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The project team is to be commended for their dedication and hard work in bringing this project forward. The extensive involvement of and collaboration with the public, agencies, and tribes has led to beneficial outcomes and a Preferred Alternative that represents and reflects all those involved. Thank you for your responsiveness to our comments and those of other project participants. We appreciate the new design features incorporated into the Preferred Alternative that would reduce environmental impacts, such as, innovative noise reduction measures, bridge height and width adjustments that reduce shading, visual, and cultural resources impacts, and that improve future light rail compatibility. We particularly note and appreciate several new additions to the EIS: a quantitative analysis of mobile source air toxics, an analysis of vehicular emissions from the Montlake lid, inclusion of the SR 520 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as Attachment 14 to the FEIS, and incorporation of numerous recommendations from the HIA.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project. If you have questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or email at Reichgott.christine@epa.gov or Elaine Somers of my staff at (206) 553-2966 or email at somers.elaine@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit