

Ann Rodak
101 No. 50th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

March 13, 2009

Jenifer Young
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project
Environmental Manager
SR 520 Project Office
600 Stewart St, Suite 520
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Arboretum and design of SR 520

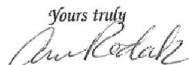
Dear Ms. Young:

I-197-001 | *Back again. Those of us who love the Arboretum have to keep writing in at every call for public comment in order to defend it. The Arboretum is too precious for us to let it be despoiled without a protest.*

I-197-002 | *Alternative A is the only way to go. It gets rid of the Arboretum ramps and makes Lake Washington Boulevard more like a park boulevard that the Olmsted plan intended over a century ago. The other alternatives make Lake Washington Boulevard into a freeway access road. Alternative A makes SR 520 much wider through the wetlands than our current bridge, but it's still narrower there than the alternative designs. Alternative A at least avoids the much greater destruction caused by the other options.*

I-197-003 | *The National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act were enacted principally to preserve our vanishing natural environment: our forests and wetlands, parks and open spaces, wildlife habitats, and in urban areas, our enclaves of nature. Alternative A without any roadways between SR 520 and the Arboretum is the only action that approaches the statutory goals.*

The City can replace a house that has to be taken for the parallel bridge by building another elsewhere. However, damages to the Arboretum and its wetlands are irreparable and therefore must be avoided.

Yours truly

Ann Rodak

I-197-001

Comment noted.

I-197-002

The Preferred Alternative would not include construction of any new ramps in the Arboretum, and would remove both the existing Lake Washington Boulevard ramps and the R.H. Thomson Expressway ramps. Access to Lake Washington Boulevard by westbound SR 520 traffic would be moved to a new intersection located on the Montlake Boulevard lid at 24th Avenue East.

I-197-003

The Preferred Alternative reduces effects on the Arboretum by eliminating the existing Lake Washington Boulevard eastbound on-ramp and westbound off-ramp and the R.H. Thomson Expressway ramps. Westbound SR 520 traffic would be able to access Lake Washington Boulevard via a new intersection located on the Montlake Boulevard lid at 24th Avenue East. See Chapter 2 of the Final EIS for additional information.

Further, the Preferred Alternative would include a higher profile across Foster Island than Option A, to reduce potential effects to the island's cultural resources and to wetlands. The modifications included in the Preferred Alternative are a constant-slope profile which raises the bridge height over Foster Island and varies the shoulder widths to reduce the overall footprint (see Chapter 2 of the Final EIS).