

I-302-001

-----Original Message-----

From: Stuk, Christopher J [mailto:christopher.j.stuk@boeing.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 3:27 PM

To: SR 520 Bridge SDEIS

Subject: Comment on SDEIS, April 15, 2010

///// I also submitted the following on the WSDOT website, but I wasn't sure it transmitted properly. /////

The SDEIS presentation of Option A with Lake WA Blvd Ramps (i.e., the A+ Option) doesn't capture the full impact of removing the existing ramps and relocating them to the west. The relocation of that traffic onto the local Montlake streets will have a devastating impact on the neighborhood. Noise, pollution, and traffic congestion will increase while safety, quality of life, and property values will decrease dramatically. The Arboretum Foundation's desire to reduce traffic through the Arboretum and the neighborhood's desire to keep extra traffic off its streets seem to be at odds on this issue, but I believe there is an alternate approach would benefit both groups. Since federal law requires studying all reasonable options when historic districts are being impacted by highway projects, please add the analysis of the following proposal to the final EIS. It is likely that very little new work would be required.

The new off and on ramps can be located in the WSDOT right-of-way area that is east of the cottonwood trees lining Lake WA Blvd E, north of the Arboretum entrance, and slightly west of the existing ramps. The ramps would join Lake WA Blvd at the same place they do today. This configuration would still create a minor noise issue and an unsightly view for a few of the neighbors on Lake WA Blvd, but at least it would keep the extra traffic off the neighborhood streets. After all, this traffic runs between neighborhoods south of Montlake and the Eastside. It has no need to use Montlake's quiet, residential streets. This proposal would completely remove the existing ramps from the Arboretum as required by the project.

Taken on its own, this design would not decrease traffic through the Arboretum but two things could be done to improve conditions in the Arboretum. First, the Arboretum could be closed to all non-emergency through traffic on weekends. Traffic would have to use 23rd/24th Ave instead. Second, a turn restriction at the east end of Boyer Ave E could be put in place to prevent left-hand turns onto northbound Lake WA Blvd. This would discourage cut-through traffic on Boyer (which it desperately needs, anyway) and eliminate some of the daily commuter trips through the Arboretum. Compare to today's traffic situation in the Arboretum, this would be a marked improvement.

I-302-001

This letter is a duplicate of the letter submitted separately by Christopher Stuk (Item Number I-329). Please refer to that letter for responses.

I-302-001

Please consider this and any other options related to the removal and relocation of the existing Lake WA Blvd ramps that would mitigate the project's impact on Montlake's neighborhood streets. There's another option that involves a new loop ramp near the Fisheries building that also deserves a look. I don't know the details, but I understand it will be presented to WSDOT shortly.

Thank you,
Chris Stuk
2506 E McGraw St
Seattle, WA 98112