

I-0666-001

Online Comment by User: Kurt Wieland

Submitted on: 10/31/2006 9:01:00 AM

Comment Category: Ecosystems

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: PO Box 1420, North Bend, WA 98045

Comment:

I wish to voice my strong opposition to any bridge widening for 520 that will impact the Arboretum and natural wetlands in the area.

Building a 110-foot-high bridge that would visually impair the quiet of the Arboretum and putting in more bridges and concrete columns is simply unacceptable.

I fully accept that 520 needs to be repaired, but I cannot support DOT's plans to widen the bridge to six lanes.

We saved the Arboretum and its neighboring wetlands 35 years ago from plans to put interchanges through it-- the dead end off-ramps that remain are reminders of that foolish plan. The simple fact is, the bridge was built in a terrible place and we're stuck with it-- like I-5 through downtown, there is not much you can do to widen the bridge without causing terrible harm to the values of the surrounding land.

I would rather continue to sit in traffic on a rebuilt, four-lane, earthquake-safe bridge, than sacrifice one view, cattail or quiet canoeing lagoon from the Arboretum.

The state must explore and select other options to protect this treasure, which is not just regionally important, but is internationally recognized as a unique urban oasis. The world is watching to see if Seattle will sacrifice yet another one of its icons in the name of "progress."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kurt Wieland

I-0666-001

Comment Summary:

Arboretum (Concerns)

Response:

See Section 9.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.