

I-0676-001

Online Comment by User: Leonard Garfield

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Comment Category: General Comments

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: MOHAL, 2700 24th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SR520 Expansion Project.

Since 1952, the Museum of History & Industry has served millions of Seattle area families, schoolchildren, and visitors from around the world at its Montlake home. During that period, the museum not only built the facility but invested millions of dollars in subsequent site-specific improvements, including special climate-controlled galleries, a state-of-the-art research library and archives, a photographic lab and darkroom facility, specialized collections storage areas and conservation lab, and a 375-seat auditorium with full stage and high-quality technical infrastructure. In the 1950s, MOHAL deeded the museum building to the city and now operates under the terms of a long-term lease.

The EIS correctly notes that MOHAL has begun to explore options for the eventuality that the 520 expansion may result in the demolition of the Montlake building. Our plans include reviewing opportunities at the Naval Reserve Armory Building at South Lake Union, although much work remains before either MOHAL or the city will be able to determine if that site is feasible. It should also be noted that the South Lake Union option provides for additional MOHAL exhibit space, but does not include an auditorium, conservation lab, library or archives, collection storage or other specialized functions. MOHAL plans have always included continuing those functions and other programming at the current Montlake facility.

I look forward to discussing with you further the impacts on the proposed project on the Museum of History & Industry.

Sincerely,

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Comment Summary:

Property Acquisitions

Response:

See Section 6.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.