

Online Comment by User: Islarson

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Comment:
To Whom It May Concern:

I-0691-001

Thank you in advance for your time. As a Seattle native (born and raised) and a longtime resident of the Madison Park, Arboretum/Interlaken and Montlake neighborhoods, I am deeply concerned about the "520 Pacific Interchange" proposal.

The widening of roads around and within a very delicate ecosystem (i.e. Arboretum and Foster Island), as well as the proximity of this proposed interchange to a renowned area of the University of Washington campus is not a viable solution. On a larger scale, the introduction of new roadways (or widening of lanes) is not necessarily the most effective measure to remedy transportation concerns. In this specific case, the location at which the proposed interchange would be built is in direct conflict with the natural settings that have been protected for decades by the State of Washington, the University of Washington and residents of surrounding communities (particularly Montlake).

Frequently I walk the Foster Island trail and the paths around the Montlake Cut and the University of Washington climbing rock with my family. I have been doing this for over thirty years, long before the 520 floating bridge became a "reverse commute" to such growing cities and metropolitan areas as Bellevue and Redmond.

In addition, I am a longtime Husky season ticket holder who has enjoyed the sense of community and loyalty that is evident in the 70,000+ fans who gather before, during and after the Husky games in the adjacent parking lot. Removing this traditional gathering venue (which has been around as long as, if not longer than the existence of the 520 floating bridge) would be a travesty. I speak on behalf of not only my family, friends and colleagues, but also the thousands of Husky football fans and supporters. This has been reiterated dozens of times in local press and television interviews with University of Washington supporters, as well as Montlake residents.

I support the financing proposal to improve the condition of the existing two-lane 520 floating bridge. However, the proposed development of the "520 Pacific Interchange" is counterproductive to both the environment and the community as a whole (University of Washington, surrounding neighborhoods and the people of Washington State who appreciate and enjoy the natural beauty of the campus at our state's largest university).

Commuters from the eastside neighborhoods to Seattle (and vice-versa) will always have the option of Interstate 90 for their cross-lake commute. Move forward with repairing the existing structural damage on the 520 floating bridge. Going beyond this step with the proposed interchange does not have my support.

Thank you again for your time.

I-0691-001

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

See Section 1.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

Respectfully submitted,

L.S. Larson
Seattle, Washington