

Online Comment by User: sharona

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Comment Category: 6-Lane Alternative
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Comment:

I-0870-001

It is clear to all that SR520 needs to be replaced and expanded, and it needs to happen soon. Because the communities have grown up so much around it, it is inevitable that there are going to be some changes to all areas next to the highway system. However, any impact and changes that occur near the Arboretum MUST be minimized. The Arboretum is truly Seattle's treasure. In fact, it is of national and historical importance. The Arboretum is an oasis within the city, a place for peace, to study water fowl and horticulture, to learn about the nature around us. 100+ foot tall spans over the Arboretum will destroy this, not to mention the disturbance by the footprint of the support structures. Once it is lost, it can not be regained.

I have lived in areas that have grown from rural and quiet to urban and loud. All the noise barriers in the world won't make the birds come back when their habitat is destroyed. Unnatural growing conditions will kill ancient plants. At a time when we need to reduce greenhouse gases, disturbing an historical green space should not be first on the list of actions we are going to take. I've seen the map, and I know that in an aerial view it appears that the interchange is a minimal impact on a larger green space. But the reality is, critical areas will be disturbed and the impact will have repercussions throughout the green space.

I-0870-002

I recognize that the Montlake neighborhood holds both political and financial sway on this project. They have, of course, supported the proposal that impacts their neighborhood the least, but a too high a cost. Other neighborhoods will lose homes and structures. It is not right that in Montlake they will lose the Arboretum instead of man made buildings.

I agree that there is a need for 6 lanes. I often rail against the study and then study again mentality that seems to permeate Seattle and the WSDOT, but I have to recommend that this be studied again or at least a redesign option provided. The Pacific Interchange is not the solution at the west end of the bridge.

I-0870-001

Comment Summary:

Arboretum (Concerns)

Response:

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

I-0870-002

Comment Summary:

6-Lane Alternative

Response:

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