

I-1020-001

Comment Summary:

Tolling Technology and Infrastructure

Response:

See Section 3.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

From: jrpage@hotmail.com [mailto:jrpage@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2006 10:08 AM
To: SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov
Subject: SR 520 Bridge Project Feedback

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Comments:

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I have moved to Seattle from Chicago. In Illinois, there are a significant number of toll roads. I have read reports that indicated that the cost of installing and maintaining toll collection facilities in many cases did not justify their existence. The revenue collected was insufficient to support the infrastructure. As I have not personally conducted any studies of the efficiency or cost effectiveness of the Illinois toll roads, I must offer you my personal experience of nearly 15 years of Illinois driving. Toll roads, even those utilizing RFID technology (or other no-stop toll options) create DISASTROUS traffic jams. As you are no doubt aware, the major toll roads in Illinois are nowhere near natural geographical bottlenecks. These roads exist in the middle of wide, flat land, and are often 5-6 lanes wide in each direction as drivers approach the toll areas. The trouble with toll plazas is that there will always be some cars that do not have the special pass that will allow them to go through the unattended toll stop. These cars must be funnelled into coin-operated lanes. Inevitably, there will be cars whose drivers have no coins. For these individuals, we will need to have AT LEAST one lane with a live, human toll-collecting attendant. The largest version of the SR 520 plan calls for a six-lane bridge. Making the bridge a toll area will slow down traffic on both the east and west sides, as drivers attempt to get into the correct lanes in an inefficient manner. Chaos will ensue. I have seen it. I have been stuck in it for hours. I am glad that I left it behind when I moved to Seattle. Please examine the impact that similar projects have had in other locations. You will see that making the SR 520 bridge a toll bridge will only make the traffic problems WORSE. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, J.R. Page