

I-1095-001
Comment Summary:
4-Lane Alternative

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

From: Janet Thompson [mailto:ja.thompson@comcast.net]
Sent: Tue 10/31/2006 10:39 PM
To: Swenson, Michael/BOI
Subject: eComment - I-520 DEIS comments

Dear Ms. White:

I-1095-001 Thank you for extending the comment period for the I-520 DEIS. I am writing on behalf of my family. We are strongly opposed to the 6-lane alternative, which expands the I-520 footprint. We favor the 4 - Lane option.

The impacts to the Lake Washington Arboretum and the associated wetlands to Lake Washington are unacceptably high. There is no acceptable mitigation for the loss that would be the result of implementing the 6-Lane option. The Arboretum needs to have the maximum amount of protection that it is possible to give and if possible restoration of past impacts from the original I-520 project. The contributions of the Arboretum to the City of Seattle and to the State of Washington cannot be adequately quantified. Further, the contribution the Arboretum and the wetland habitat to the quality of life in Seattle should not be underestimated. We believe that this has been in the DEIS. The Arboretum is a necessary green space that can not be replaced. The fragmentation of this green space by the 6-lane option would be disastrous for both wildlife species which depend upon the habitat provided and the citizens of Seattle who canoe, kayak, jog, and bird watch. This should by no means be considered an exclusive list. There is no satisfactory mitigation for the impacts to this incredible resource that belongs not just to the citizens of Seattle but to the citizens of the state.

We are also opposed to an increase in the level of noise that an expanded I-520 footprint would bring to this area. The current level of noise, when visiting the arboretum or traveling its waterways, is bearable. Any transportation plan needs to reduce the level of noise rather than increase it. The wildlife currently utilizing the Arboretum appears to also be able to tolerate the noise level, but the existing noise level may be at the outer limits for the existing diversity of species to be found in the area. Any increase in noise could result in a decrease in the diversity of species.

In closing we would strongly urge that the footprint of the I-520 in the arboretum not be changed to provide what at best will be only a temporary relief from the existing heavy use that I-520 receives. The 4 lane alternative should be more strongly considered.

Respectfully submitted

Janet A. Thompson for the Thompson-Lee Family