

I-1156-001

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

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

From: [Barbara Guthrie](#)
To: [SR 520 DEIS Comments](#)
CC:
Subject: COMMENT ON SR520 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
Date: Friday, October 27, 2006 12:19:51 PM
Attachments:

TO WSDOT:

I-1156-001 | The following is my comment regarding the SR520 replacement project.

One of the primary outcomes for the 520 bridge replacement project should be to achieve minimal impact to the adjacent wetlands, green space, trails (both land and water) and the internationally significant botanic gardens of the Washington park Arboretum. The State needs to do a better job of looking out for the Arboretum than it did when the original 520 bridge was built.

Of all the alternatives currently on the table, the Pacific Street Interchange does the most damage to one of Seattle's most important green spaces. This alternative creates a concrete footprint and supporting infrastructure that dramatically impacts Foster and Marsh Islands. Not only would wetlands and wildlife be affected by the taking of land and the creation of looming shadows, but this alternative would decrease *forever more* the enjoyment of visitors to the Arboretum and Union Bay. Under this alternative, visitors to the Arboretum, either by foot or by boat, would encounter more columns and ramps and be subjected to markedly increased noise and air pollution. With the addition of 187,500 sq. ft. of new impervious surface, the Pacific Street Interchange Alternative would jeopardize the quality of the Arboretum and significantly degrade one of Seattle's last remaining forestland wetland complexes. In the end, the Pacific Street Interchange proposal can be likened to the proposal to open up the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil dwelling. At what point do we finally realize that some things should never be risked or compromised?

I urge the WSDOT to do all you can in your decision-making process to ensure that future visitors to the Union Bay wetlands, kayaking on the still, quiet waters, will continue to be thrilled on hearing the flap of a beaver tail and the shadow caused by an eagle taking flight.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SR520 bridge replacement project.

Regards,

Barbara Guthrie
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p.s your on-line comment form could not be accessed so I opted for the e-mail route.

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