

**From:** [Marilyn Heiman](#)  
**To:** [SR 520 DEIS Comments](#)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** jennifer.ziegler@gov.wa.gov  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 31, 2006 9:58:10 AM  
**Attachments:**

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**Comments on new expansion of the 520 Bridge by the Arboretum**

**I-0474-001**

I am very opposed to the 6 lane alternative. I strongly recommend that light rail be proposed as part of this proposal. It is irresponsible for the State Department of Transportation to consider adding new lanes without proposing light rail. The 520 and 90 bridges cause the biggest highway jam ups in all of Seattle. Those people in Bellevue have a nightmare commute and I hardly ever go across those bridges from Seattle because of the terrible traffic. It is long overdue that we really handle the traffic problem in this city not just put band aids on the problem. Increasing the number of lanes is a temporary fix and will only lead to additional needs in the future. We are only growing in size. We need light rail.

I am also very opposed to the 6 lane alternative because it will damage one of the few unique and beautiful parks and ecosystems in our city. I use the area from the Urban horticulture center to the Arboretum (over the Montlake bridge) as a regular running and walking area. It is one of the few connected areas in the limits of our city where you can run for more than 5 miles and mainly be on dirt and off the pavement and be in a park like atmosphere. The 6 lane alternative will diminish this experience for the many pedestrians, birders, nature lovers and runners who regularly use this very special place. If you start to ruin every open space area in the city for 4000 pound piles of metal you are really sacrificing people and a healthy experience for an unhealthy experience. What will our children and grand children think when they look back at the decisions we have made??????

**I-0474-002**

Other concerns I have include:  
a. The Pacific Street Interchange Alternative will dramatically impact the Foster / Marsh Island wetland complex. None of the other

**I-0474-001**

**Comment Summary:**

Light Rail Transit

**Response:**

See Section 2.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

**I-0474-002**

**Comment Summary:**

Pacific Street Interchange Option

**Response:**

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

I-0474-002

alternatives would cause the degree or severity of impact on Marsh Island as the Pacific Street Interchange; **it should NOT be the preferred alternative.**

I-0474-003

- b. Numerous species of birds and other wildlife use the Foster / Marsh Island Wetland Complex. Visitors to this area are able to see many 100's of flocking American Coots, Cormorants or Widgeons in the fall and winter to name of few, or catch a glimpse of a solitary American Bittern, Kingfisher or Great Blue Heron. The diversity of wildlife is extraordinary and while WSDOT certainly identified many of these important species the DEIS does not go far enough to identify impacts to the **habitat** of any of these species nor how the re-vegetation will take into account habitat relationships and needs. If the Pacific Street Interchange alternative is chosen the dramatic impact to Marsh Island will most likely result in the displacement of many species of birds and permanently alter the habitat of the island. A mitigation package focusing on habitat impacts needs to be drafted or at least discussed before a preferred alternative can be chosen since the Pacific Street Interchange Alternative is so dramatically different than either of the other alternatives.

I-0474-004

- c. The impacts to the experience of visitors to the Foster / Marsh Island recreation area (and Arboretum) have not be fully investigated or disclosed. The DEIS focuses of **views** to and from these important areas but never broaches the subject of experience or cultural resource impacts.

I request a thorough Section 106 review be undertaken of the effects of the SR 520 Project on Washington Park and Arboretum, Lake Washington Boulevard and University of Washington Campus, all significant Olmsted cultural landscapes, which are all eligible for National Register of Historic Places and are adversely impacted by all proposed 520 alternatives.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

**Marilyn Heiman**  
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**I-0474-003**

**Comment Summary:**

Wildlife Effects

**Response:**

See Section 16.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

**I-0474-004**

**Comment Summary:**

Olmstead Resources

**Response:**

See Section 11.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

206-956-9040

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