



September 26, 2006

Paul Krueger  
Environmental Manager  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
SR 520 Project Office  
414 Olive Way, Suite 400  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Subject: Comment Letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project**

Dear Mr. Krueger:

The City of Redmond has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project. We must preface our comments on the DEIS by stating up front the vital need for full funding for the SR 520 Bridge and corridor improvements to allow construction of this critical facility. With regard to the key bridge and corridor features being considered, we have the following specific comments:

L-001-001

- The City of Redmond supports a **multi-modal transportation** solution for the SR 520 Bridge and corridor.
- The City prefers the **six-lane SR 520 Bridge option**, with the new bridge having two general-purpose lanes and one high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction.
- The new SR 520 Bridge and corridor must be built with a design and structure that **allows the incorporation of a high-capacity transit (HCT)** route between Redmond and Seattle.
- The new SR 520 Bridge and corridor must **incorporate a continuous bicycle and pedestrian path** throughout the SR 520 corridor between I-5 and Redmond.

L-001-002

- The City encourages the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Sound Transit, the City of Seattle, the University of Washington and affected Seattle neighborhoods to reach agreement on design options and transit access that result in solutions that provide regional benefits and enable the design and construction of the SR 520 Bridge and corridor improvements to proceed without delay;

**L-001-001**

**Comment Summary:**

Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning

**Response:**

See Section 2.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

**L-001-002**

**Comment Summary:**

Alternatives Development

**Response:**

See Section 1.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

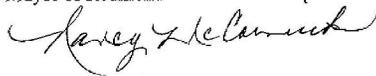
- L-001-003**
- The City urges WSDOT to meet the current schedule for SR 520 Bridge and corridor improvements, with the Final EIS issued in 2007, a Record of Decision in 2008 and bid for construction in 2009;
- L-001-004**
- The proposed closure of the Seattle-bound HOV lane between I-405 and Lake Washington for over two years due to construction will delay buses and increase travel time for transit riders between the Eastside and Seattle. **This delay is a significant concern.** Please carefully examine the impact of this closure on affected bus routes, such as Sound Transit Route 545 and Metro Route 255, and develop mitigation to reduce this impact as much as possible;
- L-001-005**
- SR 520 Bridge and corridor improvements and funding **must be coordinated with other regional transportation efforts**, including Sound Transit Phase 2 (ST2) and the Regional Transportation Improvement District (RTID) improvements, so that a comprehensive system of multi-modal transportation improvements is built for the region.

Thank you for considering comments from the City of Redmond. In addition to our comments, the cities of Redmond, Bellevue and Kirkland will submit to you a joint interest statement containing our common position on SR 520 Bridge and corridor improvements. Please contact Terry Marpert at (425) 556-2428 should you wish to discuss the City's comments.

Sincerely,



Rosemarie M. Ives  
Mayor of Redmond



Nancy McCormick  
Council President

cc: Christine Gregoire, Governor of Washington

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### L-001-003

#### Comment Summary:

Alternatives Development

#### Response:

See Section 1.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

### L-001-004

#### Comment Summary:

Traffic Management (Construction)

#### Response:

See Section 4.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

### L-001-005

#### Comment Summary:

Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning

#### Response:

See Section 6.4 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.