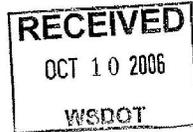




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October 6, 2006

Paul Krueger
WSDOT Environmental Manager
SR 520 Project Office
414 Olive Way, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101



RE: SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Krueger,

L-004-001

The comments on the SR-520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) are submitted on behalf of the Medina City Council. The Medina City Council supports the 6-Lane Alternative between I-405 and I-5 (two general purpose lanes and one HOV lane in each direction).

The Medina City Council has reviewed the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and selected a preliminary alternative. Based on our review of the DEIS, we believe the project most appropriate for the region and the city of Medina includes:

- A six lane SR 520 corridor that allows for future expansion to accommodate high capacity transit;
- Continuous bicycle/pedestrian facility on the north side of the highway that connects without gaps to the SR 520 trail east of I-405;
- Transit flyer stops at 92nd Avenue NE and Evergreen Point Road;
- Direct access ramps at 106th Avenue NE for transit and HOV users.

L-004-002

The Medina City Council has identified several concerns, which we wish to share. Our interest is to seek reasonable solutions that will protect established neighborhoods and the natural environment while meeting transportation demands. The following bullet point comments address real concerns identified by the Medina City Council:

- Added congestion at 92nd Avenue N.E. westbound off-ramp and 84th Avenue N.E. westbound on-ramp.

L-004-003

- Medina residents will experience the most construction effects on the Eastside. As such, the City of Medina would like to work closely with WSDOT to develop a reasonable and appropriate mitigation plan prior to the start of any construction.

L-004-001

Comment Summary:

6-Lane Alternative

Response:

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

L-004-002

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-003

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-004

- The City of Medina is committed to working with WSDOT to develop a mitigation plan for the bridge operations facility, to be built in Medina, for both construction issues and on-going operational issues.

L-004-005

- The City of Medina is concerned about the potential adverse impact to residents' properties and strongly encourages WSDOT to work with property owners to avoid undesirable partial acquisitions of properties.

The following bullet point comments are arranged by the referenced page numbers of the DEIS and are provided to address more specific issues.

L-004-006

Page 2-35 (Medina's Comprehensive Plan policies support developing a bicycle path along SR 520 and across the Evergreen Point Bridge, improving access to transit and pedestrian facilities, increasing public transit and HOV use within the SR 520 corridor, and mitigating the noise and appearance of SR 520.)

Medina's Comprehensive Plan policies relative to SR 520 specifically state:

- Minimize impacts of regional transportation facility on adjacent residential uses.
- Maintain and enhance access to public transportation.
- Maintain and/or improve local and regional air quality.
- Retain current transit stops at 92nd Avenue N.E. and Evergreen Point Road.

L-004-007

Page 2-49 (Fairweather Creek Basin)

- City of Medina, in cooperation with a Puget Sound anglers' association, have maintained a salmon incubator in Fairweather Creek near SR 520 since 2001.

L-004-008

Page 3-7 (Alternatives and options studied in detail in the Draft EIS)

- Elimination of the Evergreen Point Freeway Transit Stop option is not supported by City of Medina or by neighboring cities/towns.

L-004-009

Page 3-31 (6-Lane Alternative)

- WSDOT is encouraged to continue working with local community representatives on the design and landscaping treatments for the lids.

L-004-010

Page 4-10 (Affect on local traffic and parking)

- The Draft EIS addresses traffic and parking impacts at the intersections of Bellevue Way and Northup Way, 92nd Avenue N.E. and SR 520 westbound ramp, but does not address impacts on 84th Avenue N.E. at N.E. 24th Street, Points Drive or the SR 520 westbound ramp. How will the project affect traffic on 84th Avenue N.E. and Points Drive? What is the current and projected LOS rating at intersections along 84th Ave. NE between N.E. 12th Street and the SR 520 westbound on-ramp?

L-004-004

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-005

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-006

Comment Summary:

Plans and Policies

Response:

See Section 6.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-007

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-008

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

L-004-011	<p>Page 4-15 (<i>Affect on navigation channels</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Medina prefers the minimum height possible for the Eastside high-rise. As such, the City of Medina supports maintaining the existing height. If an increase is necessary, Medina strongly urges an increase to no greater total height than the proposed 70-foot clearance.
L-004-012	<p>Page 4-19 (<i>Air quality</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM2 should be addressed even without EPA standards. What is current level? What is projected 2016 and 2030 level?
L-004-013	<p>Page 4-23 (<i>Public services and utilities</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What mitigation measures will be taken to reduce the impact of service disruptions? e.g. EPR water main
L-004-014	<p>Page 4-26 (<i>Appearance of project area after completion</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the new bridge affect panoramic views of the lake from homes in Medina located along the east shoreline? Continued efforts to improve the aesthetic appearance of the bridge from public and private vistas are encouraged.
L-004-015	<p>Page 4-28 (<i>Noise</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent noise barriers should be installed in advance of the project or, at a minimum, as the first phase of project. This was previously agreed to by Mr. Les Rubstello of WSDOT as a mitigation measure. The City of Medina strongly encourages the use of quiet pavement in addition to other noise reduction treatments.
L-004-016	<p>Page 4-33 (<i>Construction Effects</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the hours of work? What method(s) will be used to control dust and how frequently will dust control measures be required?
L-004-017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previously noted, construction of noise walls prior to construction will help to reduce construction effects as well as ongoing impacts after project construction is completed.
L-004-018	
L-004-019	<p>Page 4-41 (<i>The project also would replace or improve up to eight Eastside culverts that currently block fish passage, opening new areas of upstream habitat to salmon and other species.</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will opening new areas of upstream habitat to salmon and other species effect Fairweather Creek? If so, how?

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-009

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-010

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-011

Comment Summary:

Navigation (During Operation)

Response:

See Section 19.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-012

Comment Summary:

Air Quality Analysis

Response:

See Section 13.1 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-019

Page 7-32 (*Fairweather Creek Basin*)

- The City of Medina has installed and maintained a Salmon incubator in Fairweather Creek since 2001. See comment above – page 2-49.

L-004-020

Page 8-29 (*Air Quality change as a result of construction*)

- The City of Medina understands that new federal regulations currently require the use of low-sulfur diesel fuel in on-road trucks and, beginning in 2010 will require construction equipment to use low-sulfur diesel fuel. However, if the project starts prior to 2010, construction equipment involved with the project should use low sulfur diesel fuel voluntarily. This would avoid mid-project equipment retrofits.

We appreciate the past efforts of WSDOT and, in particular, the SR 520 Project staff in working closely with the local communities to address concerns and to obtain input by those most affected. We look forward to a continued productive relationship with WSDOT as the environmental review, design and construction process is completed.

Sincerely,



Miles R. Adam, Mayor
City of Medina

Cc: Medina City Council
Douglas J. Schulze, City Manager
Joe Willis, Director of Public Works

L-004-013

Comment Summary:

Utilities

Response:

See Section 7.4 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-014

Comment Summary:

Context Sensitive Solutions

Response:

See Section 10.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-015

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-016

Comment Summary:

Noise and Vibration During Construction

Response:

See Section 12.4 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-017

Comment Summary:

Air Quality (Construction)

Response:

See Section 13.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-018

Comment Summary:

Noise and Vibration During Construction

Response:

See Section 12.4 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-019

Comment Summary:

Eastside Concerns

Response:

See Section 24.0 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

L-004-020

Comment Summary:

Air Quality (Construction)

Response:

See Section 13.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.