

I-0013-001

Online Comment by User: alan bassingthwaighte

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Comment Category: 6-Lane Alternative Options

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: , , 98122

Comment:

I'm upset and appalled and the idea of a six-lane freeway. Studies and history have shown that Freeway expansion leads to more use and more gridlock while allowing developers to build create unsustainablesprawl that is profitable to make but expensive and inefficient for transportation and general living. The result of construction of this increased flow of traffic on Montlake and 45th, for example, will be even more severe gridlock for more thousands of cars stewing in unmoving traffic. This will not make Seattle more livable or more functional just more filled with unmoving eastside cars.

I say no new lanes at all. Right now there is little incentive to carpool and little done. We need incentives for HOV lanes and carpooling not more reasons to ruin Seattle's traffic flow. As our society, and world, inexorably approaches peak oil production and energy costs skyrocket the need to build a sustainable transportation model will vastly increase. In twenty years, even with population growth, there may well be a substantial decrease in the number of citizens that can afford gasoline or biofuel and hence use the public road system. The freeways will less packed not more. Only HOV lanes or a light rail bridge that eventually will link with the greater Seattle light rail system makes sense considering the billion dollar pricetag at stake. Especially with the local, state and federal government increasingly constrained by deficits and tight budgets. No new lanes at all. This is just a construction boondoggle that will cost vast sums of money while decreasing Seattle's efficiency and livability.

ps-The issue of preserving the Arboretum is a big one as well as I have seen what even the present freeways have done to the original Olmstead vision. I have jogged and canoes ther for years. I wonder if the planners have. Increasing lanes will not only be a boondoggle, but also will permanently ruin one of Seattle's best urban parks. This bridge expansion is just a business-as-usual and desperate solution. Have some vision and guts folks.

sincerely Alan G Bassingthwaighte

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Comment Summary:

6-Lane Alternative

Response:

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