

**Online Comment by User: briankr**

**Submitted on: 10/17/2006 10:56:00 AM**

**Comment Category: Comments on Construction Effects**

**Comment Location: Chapter-10, Page-14**

**Address: 1633 Bellevue Ave Apt 512, Seattle, WA 98122**

**Comment:**

Closing the westbound HOV lane as it approaches the bridge is a terrible idea, as it provides a huge disincentive to use transit. Doing this will result in a drastic increase in SOV's on the road, as taking the bus is no longer a reasonable option.

As of now, I take it every day. I estimate that getting to/from the bus stops and waiting for the bus adds 30-40 minutes to my evening commute every day, however this is compensated for by the fact that the bus can use the HOV lane. Without this, I couldn't justify taking the bus, and I'd imagine many people feel the same way. The 545 especially is a commuter route, and the vast majority of people likely own cars.

While the construction will be painful for everyone, it is absolutely backwards to do something like this when it will significantly increase the number of cars on the road. If anything, the HOV lane should stay open with only one SOV lane. This would provide an incentive for people to avoid SOV trips, and additional transit routes could be added to make the bus more convenient for people not currently directly served.

**Comment Category: 4-Lane Alternative**

**Comment Location: Chapter-3, Page-11**

**Comment:**

As a daily commuter from Seattle to the Eastside, the traffic is nearly unbearable. And I take the bus. A 4-lane alternative that does nothing to improve traffic (for both buses and SOV's) is a waste of money.

I-0067-001

I-0067-002

**I-0067-001**

**Comment Summary:**

Traffic Management (Construction)

**Response:**

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

**I-0067-002**

**Comment Summary:**

4-Lane Alternative

**Response:**

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