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From: Rich Hass [mailto:richhass@mac.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:52 PM

To: SR 520 Bridge SDEIS

Subject: Comments to SR520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program

I-208-001

As a resident of Medina Circle in Medina, our neighborhood will be directly impacted by the construction and new design of the 520 bridge approach on the Eastside, specifically the new on-ramp design at 84th Ave NE. There are a couple of important factors that I don't believe have been adequately addressed in the new design.

First, 84th Ave NE in Medina is becoming what amounts to a holding pen for Seattle commuters returning from the Bellevue CBD. The new design needs to encourage commuters to use Bellevue Way as the primary access point to SR520 from the Bellevue CBD. Specifically, Bellevue Way flow controls during rush hour should be metered to pass substantially more vehicles than NE 84th. The Bellevue Way on-ramp design need to suggest, 'this is the best way to get to Seattle'. The 84th Ave NE onramp should serve the Medina/Clyde Hill Communities and not be a primary access point for Bellevue CBD traffic.

I-208-002

Second, commuters often exit SR520 and use surface streets to bypass congestion before getting back on SR520 at 84th Ave NE. California has laws making such activity illegal and it is well-enforced. The new SR520 design should anticipate such a law and include monitoring equipment in the new design to enforce such a law when it is passed. Allowing commuters to clog surface streets in order to bypass freeway congestion is bad public policy. The new design needs to take this into account.

Third (and most important to me personally), the traffic stacking plan (what I call the holding pen) NB on 84th Ave NE moves from the right lane to the left lane, with a left turn onto the new NE 84th Ave onramp.

During rush hour, this will make it impossible for Medina Circle residents to access our neighborhood without sitting in the same line of traffic with people commuting from the Bellevue CBD, waiting to get on SR520. Consideration needs to be given to Medina Circle residents who will be blocked out of our own neighborhood. The current design does not adequately address this issue.

Having attended one of the informal presentations and discussed this question with one of the WSDOT representatives, I understand WSDOT doesn't believe there will be a long line of vehicles down 84th Ave NE once the new bridge is constructed. I believe this is wildly optimistic.

I-208-003

Please consider alternatives for 84th Ave NE to prevent it from becoming the primary gateway to SR520 from the Bellevue CBD. And lastly, please consider ways to keep Medina Circle accessible during rush hour.

Thanks,

Richard Hass
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I-208-001

Improvements to the SR 520/84th Avenue NE interchange are part of a different project, the SR 520, Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project. The description of proposed improvements and their associated effects at the interchange and adjacent roadways are discussed in the environmental documents for the SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.

I-208-002

Refer to response to comment I-208-001.

I-208-003

Refer to response to comment I-208-001.