

# Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520

Madison Park.. North Capitol Hill..Montlake.. Laurelhurst..Roanoke Park/Portage Bay. .Boating community

April 17, 2010

Governor Christine Gregoire  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire,

Here are the comments of the Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520 on the recent environmental impact statement for the 520 I-5 to Medina Project. They come with a request to you: please read them. You, yourself.

It will take you a couple of hours, but you will find new information which might greatly help you as you lead the state towards solving SR 520's problems. We are concerned that you are not getting the full picture on this project and think you might find it important and useful to read our full comments yourself so that there is no filter.

We know you have been a leader toward clean air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. You will learn that the project as currently proposed will increase emissions and that alternatives are available which do less harm.

We know you have been a leader in children's health. You will learn that the project as currently proposed will not only increase heart attacks overall but cause asthma and other chronic diseases in hundreds of children. Alternatives to the current proposals are available that do less harm.

You will learn that the current proposals take parks and recreational space along almost all of SR 520's length on the Seattle side. These areas are protected by federal law and can not be taken if there are feasible alternatives that do less harm. Alternatives to the current proposals are available that do less harm.

You know how hard Seattle is trying to maintain trees and green space even as the city grows denser. You will learn that the current proposals strip the trees along the highway, trees which have provided beauty and buffered pollution for 45 years.

*Fran Conley, coordinator, 328-4444 ; Ted Lane, President Roanoke Park /Portage Bay Community Council ; Jonathan Dubman, Rob Wilkinson and Robert Rosencrantz, Montlake Community Council; Maurice Cooper, Madison Park Community Council; Colleen McAleer and Jean Amick, Laurelhurst Community Club; Nancy Brainard, North Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association; Gary Stone, boating community. Fundraising chair Mabry DeBuys. Madison Park outreach Kathleen O'Connor. Treasurer Mary Ann Mundy*

After you have read these comments, we would like to hear your thoughts. But please don't say safety demands we move ahead with the current proposals. Without the money to cover the whole program, the state's recent decision to devote funds to the east side of the project shows that highway building, not safety, is the focus of the current proposals. We would support a program to resolve safety issues promptly, but such an effort is different from a program to expand highways.

We are impressed by the various polls which say the region wants light rail on SR 520. Light rail would cause fewer greenhouse gases and do less harm to health, could enable parks to remain in public use and might do a better job of getting people across the lake and to their destinations for the next 75 years. It's worth objective study.

Some dozens of citizens have worked to put these comments together, and we all look forward to working with you.

Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520

by

s/ Fran Conley