



January 26, 2017

WSDOT – SR 520 West Side Project, SR 520 Program Office (SR520Westside@wsdot.wa.gov)
C/O Julie Meredith, SR 520 Program Administrator (meredjl@wsdot.wa.gov)
999 Third Ave., Suite 2200
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: King County CSO Relocation/Avoidance Options & RFP Approach – Montlake Considerations

Dear Ms. Meredith and the WSDOT SR 520 Program Office:

We understand that WSDOT has identified a need to relocate or design around the King County CSO in the SR520 Rest of the West design, and that several “protect-in-place” alternatives are being considered:

- Alternative 1: Gas Station
- Alternative 2A: NOAA Grand Property (Bend in Siphon Pipes)
- Alternative 2B: NOAA Grant Property (Straight Siphon Pipes)
- Alternative 3: City Property

Of these, the benefits of Alternative 3 are highly compelling (especially if it would preserve the Montlake Market and gas station). A WSDOT document we have reviewed indicates that this approach “would be much better and cost effective,” but also indicates “it does not look feasible now due to the current schedule of the RFP submittal.”

We have copied you on our recent letter to King County Wastewater Treatment Division (KCWTD), Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), which advocates development of a CSO storage tank at the Montlake Playfield at the Montlake Community Center. We hope that our input may be helpful to WSDOT in considering alternatives for the SR 520 Montlake Phase construction design as well as opportunities for collaboration with KCWTD and SPU that could benefit all stakeholders. Considering the proximity of WSDOT’s proposed water/sewer relocation project to the Montlake Playfield that is currently under consideration by King County for developing a CSO storage tank in its 2018 Long-term CSO Control Plan Update (image included below for illustration of proximity), it would be exciting to explore

collaborative approaches with KCWTD and SPU that would cost-effectively achieve the objectives of all agencies and produce the best long-term outcomes for the community.

For example, KCWTD has indicated that its schedule for the Montlake CSO Control Project could potentially be adjusted. If that project (or certain components of it) were moved up, might this create an opportunity for enhanced collaboration among WSDOT, KCWTD, and SPU that could be advantageous your project, as well as to the other agencies and the community?

We ask that the Public be afforded an opportunity to review proposed significant design changes relating to phase I of the SR 520 Rest of the West project (including alternatives being considered for water/sewer relocation in Montlake and the possible removal of the Montlake Market and gas station) so that we might provide feedback before they are adopted. If these such significant design challenges are not addressed prior to issuance of an RFP, we request that any contractor selected to carry out the design and build processes be required to solicit and consider public input to their plans. We believe collecting public input to design changes is consistent with the spirit of the project. Further, per 23 CFR Part 771, we do not believe that the Categorical Exclusion process can be used in the purchase of the gas station and the Montlake Market:

§771.117 FHWA categorical exclusions.

(e) Actions described in (c) (26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) of this section may not be processed as CEs under paragraph (c) if they involve:

(1) An acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way or that would result in any residential or non-residential displacements;

The Montlake Community Club will support reasonable design changes of the SR520 project that consider input from KCWTD, SPU, and the community, and which avoid removal of the Montlake Market and gas station.

We appreciate the significant efforts being undertaken by the State of Washington both in planning and in coordinating the replacement of the SR520 Bridge. The Rest of the West project will be a defining feature of the Montlake community for generations to come, and we will be most grateful for your ingenuity and flexibility in coordinating with other local agencies and contractors, including KCWTD and SPU, to ensure the long-term value of the project is optimized.

Best regards,



Bryan Haworth – President
Montlake Community Club Board of Trustees
president@montlake.net

Montlake Community Center Advisory Board

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Attached: Seattle Public Utilities Map, LTCP System Options (December 2013), illustrating proximity of proposed WSDOT Water/Sewer Relocation projects.
Schematic: WSDOT SR520 Water/Sewer Relocations at Montlake – Triple Barrel Siphon Relocation Alternative No. 3.

CC: King County – Wastewater Treatment Division, CSO Control Program, C/O John Phillips, CSO Program Manager (john.phillips@kingcounty.gov) and Dana West (dana.west@kingcounty.gov)
Seattle Public Utilities, C/O Alexander Mockos, CSO Capital Program Manager (alexander.mockos@seattle.gov)
Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, Board of Park Commissioners, C/O Cheryl Eastberg (cheryl.eastberg@seattle.gov) and Rachel Acosta (rachel.acosta@seattle.gov)
Representative Frank Chopp (Frank.Chopp@leg.wa.gov)
Senator Jamie Pedersen (Jamie.Pedersen@leg.wa.gov)
Washington State Transportation Commission (transc@wstc.wa.gov)
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,
C/O Mike Young (myoung@utc.wa.gov)



Seattle Public Utilities Map, LTCP System Options (December 2013), illustrating proximity of proposed WSDOT Water/Sewer Relocation projects.



Schematic: WSDOT SR520 Water/Sewer Relocations at Montlake – Triple Barrel Siphon Relocation Alternative No. 3.