

Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520

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

August 21,2011

Mayor Mike McGinn
City Council President Richard Conlin
Transportation Committee Chair Tom Rasmussen

Dear Seattle office holders responsible for transportation,

On Friday, a number of permit applications related to SR 520 were posted in our neighborhoods. As we examine them, we find that they are not related to the approved Phase 1 Construction, from Medina to the highrise. Instead, they pertain to building the Second Montlake Bascule Bridge; Constructing the Portage Bay Viaduct; and Constructing the West Approach. There may be more permit applications that we have not yet found.

We understand that it may be appropriate to consider permits directly related to the Phase 1 project, where authorization is complete and WSDOT asserts that it has funding. However, it would harm the city to proceed on permits related to the rest of the I-5 to Medina project, the west side, which is not funded and where construction has not been authorized.

We ask that you make sure that no action is taken on applications for permits related to SR 520 west of the Phase 1 construction, until that remaining segment is funded by the legislature and approved for construction by the legislature and the PSRC. We ask further that you work with WSDOT to ensure that its right of way is not stripped bare until the same requirements are fulfilled.

- The legislature has not yet authorized construction of these remaining segments.
- The PSRC has not yet authorized construction; it only authorized Phase 1.
- These remaining segments of SR 520 don't have funding, and it might be years before funding arrives, particularly in the light of the proposed initiative 1125.
- We understand that the city council is working on project elements, including collecting information on all commitments made by WSDOT and setting up criteria about if and when the second Montlake Bridge will be constructed. This work should be complete before any permits are given.
- We understand that SDOT is working on assessing the impact to local streets, and that such work is in its initial stages, with no mitigation money yet promised by the 520 project.

Fran Conley, co-coordinator, 206-328-4444, fran@roanokecap.com 117 East Lousia St. #205, Seattle WA 98102
Ted Lane, Roanoke Park Community Council ;Anita Bowers, Jonathan Dubman, 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.
www.sustainable520.org

- WSDOT staff have told some of our members that WSDOT is thinking of changing the positioning of the Portage Bay Bridge. If the city issues any permits, it will be extremely difficult to have a say on this.
- The process called 106, dealing with safeguards for historic and cultural sites, resulted in an agreement with WSDOT to continue talking to resolve many items. This has not even started.
- To protect itself, the city needs much more assurance than that “best management practices” will be used. The construction plans are not yet specific enough to grant permits.
- It may be many years before this project is funded and construction starts. The needs and processes of the city of Seattle may have changed by then.
- On the east side of Lake Washington, WSDOT has just cut down many trees and left a devastated area. We need to prevent the same happening here. Going through seven years of construction is bad enough, but having any destruction occur and be left in place for years before construction is truly harmful to the city.

Here are the specific permit applications we have found so far. Again, there may be more:

Project # 3012585: Replace Portage Bay Bridge with 6 lane bridge

Project # 3012586: Construct a second Montlake drawbridge

Project # 3012587: Replace west approach with 6 lanes;

Project 3012588 covers the floating bridge, but we acknowledge that that is part of Phase 1. There are several other applications related to mitigation.

We consider this important and urgent, and would be pleased to discuss it with you.

Thank you!



206-328-4444

Co-ordinator

Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520