

**Subject:** Follow-Up re: Plants Between Ramps at SR 509 and SR 518

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**From:** Judith McDonald [mailto:jmcdon3940@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2009 7:42 PM  
**To:** 'Althausen, Jerry'  
**Cc:** Valerie Stuart; 'Riley, Vern'  
**Subject:** RE: Plants Between Ramps at SR 509 and SR 518

Dear Mr. Althausen,

It looks like a crew cleaned up the garbage and weeded the areas between the ramps at SR 509 and SR 518. I saw the crew working a couple of days ago, and the result is a huge improvement.

Thank you,  
Judith McDonald

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**From:** Althausen, Jerry [mailto:AlthauG@wsdot.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 4:42 PM  
**To:** jmcdon3940@comcast.net  
**Cc:** ValerieS@burienwa.gov; Riley, Vern  
**Subject:** Plants Between Ramps at SR 509 and SR 518

Ms. McDonald,

Thank you for your concern of the newly planted plants within the state right of way.

We have a three year plant establishment program that requires our installing contractor to maintain all new plantings for three years prior to the state taking over maintenance. They are also required to replace up to 85% of the plantings if they die.

I will pass the information you provided on to our contractor and request they improve their maintenance in this area.

Thank you again for your information.

*Jerry Althausen*

WSDOT  
Maintenance / Operations Superintendent  
253-372-3901



**From:** Lisa Clausen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 4:41 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** median plantings at the 148th Street/518 exit

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**From:** Valerie Stuart  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 4:14 PM  
**To:** 'Judith McDonald'  
**Subject:** RE: median plantings at the 148th Street/518 exit

*Hello Ms. McDonald,*

*I will definitely forward your concerns to the WSDOT maintenance people. Unfortunately, with all of the areas they are responsible for, the medians are probably one of their lowest priorities. With the recent dry weather I am sure there are many areas of neglect.*

*We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and hopefully we will see some improvement soon. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.*

*Valerie Stuart, Department Assistant  
City of Burien Public Works Department  
400 SW 152nd Street, Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166-2209  
206-248-5521  
206-248-5539 (Fax)  
[valeries@burienwa.gov](mailto:valeries@burienwa.gov)  
[www.burienwa.gov](http://www.burienwa.gov)*

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**From:** Judith McDonald [mailto:jmcdon3940@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 4:10 PM  
**To:** Valerie Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: median plantings at the 148th Street/518 exit

Dear Ms. Stuart,

Thank you for getting back to me.

I am referring to the medians on the east side of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South where the State Routes (518 and 509) meet. I would appreciate it if you would forward my concern to the WSDOT maintenance department. It just seems like such a waste of money to have done all of that work on those medians (including the purchase of the plant material) and to not take care of them. There is now quite a bit of garbage being thrown onto the medians. Similar to not cleaning up graffiti (graffiti invites more graffiti), letting the medians go into such an unmaintained and uncared for state just invites continued abuse.

Thank you again for the follow up.

Judith McDonald

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**From:** Valerie Stuart [mailto:ValerieS@burienwa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 3:46 PM  
**To:** 'jmcdon3940@comcast.net'

*CFTR; 10/20/09*

**Cc:** Council

**Subject:** FW: median plantings at the 148th Street/518 exit

*Dear Ms. McDonald:*

*Your message to the Burien City Council has been forwarded to the Public Works Department for response. I would like to clarify which median(s) you are referring to in order to give you a correct response.*

*Are you talking about the median area on SR-518 where SR-509 on & off ramps intersect it, on the east side of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South; or the narrow median on SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street on the immediate west side of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South?*

*The median on the west side of 1<sup>st</sup> that runs east/west on SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, has recently been weeded and planted with flowers on the west end of it. This median is a City of Burien responsibility.*

*The median(s) on the east side of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, where the State Routes meet, belong to WSDOT. If those are the ones you are referring to, please let me know and I will forward your concern to their maintenance department.*

*Valerie Stuart, Department Assistant  
City of Burien Public Works Department  
400 SW 152nd Street, Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166-2209  
206-248-5521  
206-248-5539 (Fax)  
[valeries@burienwa.gov](mailto:valeries@burienwa.gov)  
[www.burienwa.gov](http://www.burienwa.gov)*

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**From:** Judith McDonald [mailto:jmcdon3940@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Saturday, July 11, 2009 7:30 PM

**To:** Council

**Subject:** median plantings at the 148th Street/518 exit

Dear Burien City Council,

I drive highway 509 to work each day, getting off at the exit at S. 148<sup>th</sup> St. I was so pleased when the new plants went into the new medians. The medians are in a sad and disgraceful condition now. I am sure that the city is short on money in this depressed economy, But I wish there were a way to maintain these medians. The plants are dying, the medians are being overtaken by weeds, and people are using the medians to throw their trash. I am wondering if various groups might sign up to clean up the medians on a rotating monthly basis.

Sincerely,  
Judith McDonald