

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:52 PM
To: 'Sean Battle'
Subject: RE: South Park Bridge impacts many living in Southwest King County

Thank you for your message. It will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for an upcoming Burien City Council meeting.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

From: Sean Battle [mailto:seanbattle1@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 1:19 PM
To: Public Council Inbox; dkaplan@desmoineswa.gov; bsheckler@desmoineswa.gov; sthomasson@desmoineswa.gov; cscott@desmoineswa.gov; mmusser@desmoineswa.gov; mpina@desmoineswa.gov; dsherman@desmoineswa.gov; george.hadley@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; clarke.brant@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; doug.osterman@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; Shawn.McEvoy@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; john.rankin@ci.normandy-park.wa.us
Subject: South Park Bridge impacts many living in Southwest King County

Des Moines Council Member Kaplan,

My wife and I just bought a new house in Des Moines, near 1st Ave and S 200th St. We love the neighborhood so far!

However, a recent news article about the South Park Bridge has me a little worried. Apparently the planned closure for the South Park Bridge is going to substantially increase traffic on the 1st Ave South Bridge (SR99 over the Duwamish River). So much so in fact that the Level of Service drops to "F". Article: <http://westseattleblog.com/2010/03/south-park-bridge-closure-planning-session-mayor-re-money>. I also noticed that there does not seem to be any representation for the residents in Southwest King County that use the 1st Ave Bridge daily.

My wife and I both use the 1st Ave Bridge every day to get to work in Seattle! I am almost certain that many residents of Des Moines use it as well. Not to mention other cities such as Burien, Normandy Park and SeaTac.

My question is, "Have you looked into forming a coalition with the other nearby cities to put more pressure on King County and WSDOT to find a solution for this problem?"

I don't mean to put you on the spot, but I copied a few other elected officials in hopes of starting a dialogue.

Regards,

Sean Battle

CFTR: 04/05/10

Lisa Clausen

From: DesMnsDave@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 4:10 PM
To: seanbattle1@gmail.com; Public Council Inbox; dkaplan@desmoineswa.gov; bsheckler@desmoineswa.gov; sthomasson@desmoineswa.gov; cscott@desmoineswa.gov; mmusser@desmoineswa.gov; mpina@desmoineswa.gov; dsherman@desmoineswa.gov; george.hadley@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; clarke.brant@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; doug.osterman@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; Shawn.McEvoy@ci.normandy-park.wa.us; john.rankin@ci.normandy-park.wa.us
Cc: TPiasecki@desmoineswa.gov; GFredricks@desmoineswa.gov; DBrewer@desmoineswa.gov
Subject: Re: South Park Bridge impacts many living in Southwest King County

Mr. Battle,

Thank you for your email concerning the South Park Bridge.

For a little background information (and as I understand it), the South Park Bridge belongs to King County. One end of the bridge is in Tukwila, the other end is in unincorporated King County, and then there is a sliver of land that actually belongs to the City of Seattle somewhere in the mix. Those are the direct jurisdictional parties involved.

King County has known for a long time that the South Park Bridge was in horrible shape, and a date for closure had been set some time ago. I believe the cost of a new bridge to be approximately \$150 million.

While the funds necessary to replace the bridge have not yet been identified, the bridge has become a priority. In a recent effort to prioritize local transportation projects that would be funded IF the federal government follows through on a proposed job creation proposal (I think it passed the US Senate, but was stuck in the House), based on regional distributions the bridge would get approximately \$18 million. Additional funds have been identified from a few sources, but the combined amount is less than \$50 million of the \$150 million needed, and none of it is secured.

We understand the impact that this would have on our residents and those of other south side cities. But the stark reality is that King County, City of Tukwila and the City of Seattle do not have funding for this project. Seattle has obtained funding to fix other large scale, expensive messes such as Mercer Street at the south end of Lake Union, the tunnel to replace the viaduct, and replacement of the SR 520 Evergreen Point Bridge. With the exception of Mercer Street, the other two projects are billions of dollars and Seattle (and the state) must commit it's efforts to both of those projects. A major earthquake could take both down in a single blow, and both projects were supposed to be addressed in an "expedited fashion" after the February 2001 earthquake that damaged them. Nine years later, neither project has started, let alone been completed.

In Des Moines we've had our own challenges with bridges. The Saltwater Park Bridge was out of service nearly 2 years due to landslides and bad wind storm damage. Even with those repairs, the bridge needs major repair and seismic upgrade work. This year, work will be completed on the North Twin Bridge on 16th Avenue South, just south of 250th Street. Again, major footing repair and seismic upgrades are being done. If it weren't for federal bridge funding, and floating city bonds, we would not have been able to do either project. I suspect that both King County and the cities of Seattle and Tukwila would have to do something similar.

No matter what is proposed, it will not prevent closure of the South Park Bridge on June 30, 2010.

I would consider the City of Des Moines sending a letter, in conjunction with other south county cities, outlining the potential impacts on our citizens, and on those citizens in surrounding jurisdictions, which strongly encourages those three jurisdictions to make the tough decision to finance bridge construction through the use of their bonding capacity. That would be appropriate.

Aside from that, I'm not sure how much more can be done. We have no money to give ourselves to such a project, and King County has literally had over a decade to figure out what to do about the South Park Bridge. And here we are.

Thank you again for your email.

Dave Kaplan

Mayor Pro Tem
Des Moines City Councilmember

In a message dated 3/25/2010 1:19:05 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, seanbattle1@gmail.com writes:

Des Moines Council Member Kaplan,

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