

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 9:36 AM
To: 'Craig Thompson'
Subject: RE: Find the Funds for the South Park Bridge

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

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

From: Craig Thompson [mailto:catman@seanet.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 12:38 PM
To: elizabeth@artinstallation.com; 'Dagmar Cronn'; georgetown-seattle@yahoogroups.com; yoursouthpark@yahoogroups.com; 'Judith Edwards'; kenylnd@comcast.net; 'Cari Simson'; 'David Gackenbach'; 'Doreen Deaver'; 'Jason Loui'; 'Jennifer Nye'; 'Joseph Smith'; 'Kevin Stoops'; 'Kristen Eyman'; marilyn@seattleindustry.org; marq@bwco.info; 'Matthew Stubbs'; 'MC Halvorson'; 'Mike Peringer'; 'Nigel Day'; 'Richard Wilson'; 'Robert Hinrix'; 'Warren Yee'; 'Wei Cai'; 'William Mallow'; 'Bill Bryant'; 'Gael Tarleton'; 'John Creighton'; 'Rob Holland'; 'Tom Albro'; 'Sally Bagshaw'; 'Tim Burgess'; 'Sally Clark'; 'Richard Conlin'; 'Jean Godden'; 'Bruce Harrell'; 'Nick Licata'; 'Mike O'Brien'; 'Tom Rasmussen'; 'Mike McGinn'; 'Dave Kaplan'; 'Melissa Musser'; 'Matt Pina'; 'Carmen Scott'; 'Bob Sheckler'; 'Dan Sherman'; 'Scott Thomasson'; Public Council Inbox; 'Tukwilla City Council'; 'Jim Haggerton'; 'Dow Constantine'; 'Julia Patterson'; 'Jan Drago'; 'Margarita Prentice'; 'Bob Hasegawa'; 'Zach Hudgins'
Subject: Find the Funds for the South Park Bridge

I've lived in the South End for over 12 years. During that time, I have visited South Park from Beacon Hill to attend meetings of the Greater Duwamish District Council, to use the SPU transfer facility, to go to restaurants in South Park's commercial area, to shop at stores, and to participate in cultural events like the Duwamish River Festival, which draws families and organizations from across the South End. On average, I go to South Park once a week.

I originally attended the Greater Duwamish District Council because of my concern about replacing the South Park Bridge. I believe it is the most important infrastructure project in south Seattle and King County for a number of reasons.

First, the bridge is more than a piece of road. It makes it possible for our broader South End community to be a whole.

Second, the City of Seattle made a commitment to the people of South Park and the South End when it built a new library and Cesar Chavez Park. These are facilities that are enjoyed by our residents every day. Also, Mara Farms is a large working urban agriculture site, the largest in South Seattle, that captures the homestead heritage for not only Seattle, but for King County and Western Washington. Few major cities have such a unique living link with their past. Yet without the bridge, South End residents would no longer be able to access these places directly, and so their positive benefits for South Park would be jeopardized.

Third, the business community in South Park is dependent upon the bridge. The small family-run, owner-operated businesses that are the bread-and-butter of the community will be grievously impacted by a sustained, indefinite closure of the South Park Bridge. Many of the restaurants, for example, derive much of their sales from the Boeing workers who cross the bridge for lunch. Without that bridge, those businesses will be sorely pressed to make payroll and keep their doors open for the customers, workers, and families that depend on them.

Fourth, by not having a remedial plan for the bridge, government will have cut off access from South Park to I-5, further isolating the community.

It may be a hard time for budgets, but the people of South Park are not a line item to be cut. I urge you to work with our South End communities to find a real, ready solution to replacing the South Park Bridge and for keeping our South End whole.

CFTR:05/10/10

Sincerely,

Craig Thompson

(206) 328-2827