

NOTE: Same e-mail response sent to every person who sent email re: South Park Bridge.

Lisa Clausen

From: kcexec@kingcounty.gov
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 6:00 PM
To: Judith Edwards; To: "Dagmar Cronn"; 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; Jim Haggerton; kcexec@kingcounty.gov; Patterson, Julia; Drago, Jan; Margarita Prentice; Bob Hasegawa; Zach Hudgins
Subject: RE: South Park Bridge

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the closure of the South Park Bridge and funding for the new bridge proposal. I understand your frustrations. As the agency responsible for maintaining this 79-year-old bridge, we are well aware of the importance of this vital transportation corridor to the community and the region as a whole.

King County Executive Dow Constantine has made it a priority to develop a responsible financing plan for replacement of the bridge that has a realistic chance of success. The Executive is bringing together a broad-based group of stakeholders—including state and city elected officials, business owners, and community members—to discuss funding options for the new bridge, including partnerships with the state, cities, and other organizations. Broader support for the South Park Bridge will help make us successful in securing funding for this important project, which is fully designed and permitted making it "shovel-ready."

This group is acting quickly to build support around the project and the County's planned application for federal stimulus funds through the second round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants, known as TIGER II grants, later this year. Earlier this month, the Executive met in Washington, DC with senior officials at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where the TIGER II applications will be evaluated. We believe we've gained insight that will make our already strong case for the grant even more competitive. The Executive also met with several Congressional offices to discuss support for the bridge, including Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Representative McDermott.

However, in order to protect the safety of the public, the deteriorating bridge must be scheduled for closure to all traffic—including cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians—at 7:00 p.m. on June 30, regardless of whether we are able to secure funding for a new bridge.

An independent study of the bridge's condition was published on May 4, concluding that the bridge should be closed to vehicles and pedestrians before additional deterioration renders the bridge unsafe. Engineers believe the remaining structural capacity to support both the weight of the bridge and the estimated 20,000 vehicles that cross the span each day is unpredictable and extremely limited. To view the Condition Report, please go to: www.kingcounty.gov/SouthParkBridge.

We are working with the cities of Seattle, Burien, and Tukwila, as well as with the Washington State Department of Transportation, to coordinate traffic routing, signage, and signal timing at several locations. We are also working with emergency service and transit providers, businesses, and the community to receive their comments and to communicate our plans to make sure lifelines for the community remain available. Several all-agency meetings have allowed for collaboration among the various jurisdictions, which is essential to ensure a successful transition and to minimize disruption when the bridge closes.

CFTR: 05/24/10

I encourage you to stay informed about the status of the South Park Bridge project by visiting our Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/SouthParkBridge. We will continue our outreach to the community and affected stakeholders leading up to and after the June 30 closure. Our outreach will include public meetings, media releases, and print material, and will be designed to address concerns about safety and traffic.

You are also invited to an open house on **Tuesday, May 25**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Machinists Hall, 9125-15th Place South, Seattle, to learn more about final plans for closing the bridge, including how traffic and buses will be rerouted after the bridge is closed. The meeting will also provide updates about assistance available for local businesses affected by the closure and the effort to fund construction of a new bridge.

You may also direct questions or comments about the project to Ashley DeForest, Community Relations Planner, at 206-684-1154 or via e-mail at Ashley.deforest@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Harold Taniguchi
Director, King County Department of Transportation

From: Judith Edwards [mailto:judedw@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 12:09 PM

To: To: "Dagmar Cronn"; "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"; "Burien City Council"; "Jim Haggerton"; kcxec@kingcounty.gov; Patterson, Julia; Drago, Jan; "Margarita Prentice"; "Bob Hasegawa"; "Zach Hudgins"

Subject: South Park Bridge

June 30th will be an auspicious day. On this day citizens of S. Seattle will lose a major transportation route with the opening/closure of the S. Park Bridge. Whereas the citizens of South Park will suffer the greatest impact, residents of Georgetown, Beacon Hill, Burien and Tukwilla will be impacted as well.

I am greatly concerned about the time required for emergency vehicles to reach the residents of South Park, and very concerned about the loss of business to the S. Park merchants who are already struggling to stay afloat. Bus service will not be a total answer, and the closure of the bridge affects many - merchants who use the bridge daily, truckers who will now have to extend their routes, school busses which will need to be rescheduled, to name only a few of the coming problems.

Because the Greater Duwamish District Council, which I chair, met on Wednesday, April 28th, I was unable, as were many others from S. Seattle, to attend Mayor McGinn's Budget Hearing at Holly Park. Had I been able to attend, I would have urged the City to set aside needed dollars for the replacement of the South Park Bridge. I urge you, as elected and appointed officials, to give this impending crisis serious consideration. Multi-agency funding from the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, the City of Tukwilla, city of Des Moines, King County and the State of Washington must be made available to resolve this problem, so that members of the South Park community will not be so adversely impacted.