June 6, 2017: RSUP lighting project update to neighbors

Dear Project Neighbors,

On Thursday, June 1, 2017, WSDOT hosted a technical community meeting to:

- Review the progress made since the November 2016 meeting.
- Provide an update on WSDOT’s evaluation of the options to potentially reduce the visibility of the lights along the SR 520 Regional Shared-Use Path (RSUP).
- Discuss next steps.

We would like to thank those who were able to attend. The group of seven attendees included: Senator David Frockt, Laurelhurst neighbors and a representative from the bicycle community. For those of you who were not able to attend, the meeting materials are posted online.

Next steps

Over the past year, WSDOT worked with the neighbors north of the bridge to evaluate several different options to reduce the light visible from north of the bridge.

During the June 1 meeting, the attendees agreed that the option that best addresses their needs and also meets the established safety and cost criteria is to install a louvered shield on the existing light fixture. This solution is also the quickest to implement. Other options would be more expensive to implement and would likely require legislative authorization and funding.

The neighbors voted during the meeting and agreed that placing the shield over the existing fixture with 100W bulbs is a good step in addressing neighbors’ concerns and is a marked improvement over unshielded lights. Based on the three prototypes of louvered shields evaluated, the Prototype 2 - closed option (pictured here) will be the preferred option. (You can see images of the other shields that were evaluated on pages 4 through 7 in the presentation.)

During the meeting, the attendees also asked WSDOT to:

- Provide a picture of the light shield on a 50W bulb.
- Calculate the operating costs for both the 100W and 50W bulbs as well as estimates for operating a more efficient bulb, such as an LED.
- Evaluate the possibility of incrementally switching from 100W to 50W bulbs, such as implementing a program where the maintenance crew would switch out bulb and ballast as each 100W bulb burns out.

At this time, WSDOT would like to hear from those who were unable to attend the meeting. If you would like to provide additional feedback on the decision to install Prototype 2 – closed on 100W bulbs as soon as possible or have any other comments or questions, please email them to SR520Bridge@WSDOT.WA.GOV by June 12, 2017.
After WSDOT has received all feedback, we will provide an update on the next steps and timing for shield installation as well as the above outstanding items.

Sincerely,

Stacey Howery
Communications
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program
Washington State Department of Transportation

You are receiving this email because you have indicated interest in the RSUP lights. Please email us if you do not wish to receive future updates (SR520Bridge@WSDOT.WA.GOV).