



February 2, 2007

Subject: I-5 / 5th Avenue NE to NE 92nd Street Noise Wall Project

Y-9406-AJ
LTR – 0279
PJ0203

Dear Property Owner,

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), I would like to provide an update following the community meeting held on December 13, 2006. Many neighbors attended the meeting and heard presentations from WSDOT and Sound Transit regarding the noise wall project along I-5 between 5th Avenue NE and NE 92nd Street and Sound Transit's proposed North Link light rail extension project on the east side of I-5.

To address potential schedule and location conflicts with Sound Transit's project, WSDOT presented two options for moving forward on the noise wall project. The first option is to design and build a noise wall on the east side of I-5 now. This wall may need to be demolished and rebuilt after only a few years in coordination with Sound Transit's North Link light rail construction. The second option is to delay the design and construction of a noise wall on the east side of I-5 at this time, pending additional coordination with Sound Transit and the outcome of a November 2007 Roads & Transit ballot measure.

A constructive conversation between attendees and staff from both projects followed the presentations. Attendees raised some important questions regarding the two projects and the anticipated coordination efforts for moving forward. To help clarify these questions, WSDOT and Sound Transit have prepared the enclosed responses.

Given the schedule and location conflicts, as well as neighborhood and legislative support, WSDOT is planning to delay the design and construction of the noise wall on the east side of I-5. This would allow both WSDOT and Sound Transit the opportunity to closely coordinate to provide the best value and optimal solution for the community. This option would also minimize construction impacts for residents in the area and use the current funding responsibly.

Over the next few months, WSDOT plans to begin conducting outreach activities for residents near the proposed west side noise walls. WSDOT will continue to update the project Web site with the latest information and send periodic e-mail updates to residents within the project area. After the November 2007 ballot, WSDOT will coordinate with Sound Transit to better understand next steps for both the light rail and noise wall projects and provide you with additional information at that time.

Please feel free to contact me with any immediate questions or concerns or visit the project Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kinyan Lui'.

Kinyan Lui, P.E.
Project Engineer
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cc: Representative Jim McIntire; King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson; Maple Leaf Community Council; Grace Crunican, Seattle Department of Transportation Director; Lorena Eng, WSDOT Northwest Region Administrator; John Milton, SR 520 Project Director; Mia Waters, WSDOT Air, Acoustics and Energy; Phil Harrison, Sound Transit North Link Project Manager