

Lorri Bodi Commentary to ST Board / 22.12.15

Thank you Board members. I am Lorri Bodi, commenting as an individual Councilmember for LFP regarding road widening for the 522 BRT in our city. This segment of the 8 mile project will add a new northbound bus lane for 1.2 miles in LFP to save 1-2 minutes of transit time, at a cost of more than \$50M.

I'd like to share with the Board today a motion passed unanimously by the LFP City Council last week. As a Council , we directed our City Administration to request

“That the Sound Transit Board and Executive put into effect a 90-day pause on the Lake Forest Park segment of the project, in order to hear our citizens' concerns and work directly with the City and our community to develop new design refinements, including: 1) significant reductions in the amount of tree canopy destruction and property acquisitions; 2) to better address and improve mitigation plans for noise, tree removal, and environmental impacts; and 3) to rethink and reimagine the retaining wall design, safety, and landscaping.”

Why did the Council take this unusual step? This is a matter of equity. Our city is the smallest and most heavily impacted community of the entire 4 city project. And the most costly segment of the route.

Our segment has the largest residential density of any segment, over 75 homes in less than a mile. Our segment has more than half of all private property acquisitions for the BRT.

Ours is the only segment with a new bus lane, bringing traffic and noise much closer to residents, literally right into their front and backyards.

Ours is the only segment to have a large retaining wall, up to 16' tall and the length of 11 football fields, transforming our city gateway into a wall of concrete.

Our segment has the greatest density of native trees and vegetation to be removed more than 400 significant trees and 500 smaller ones. And two thirds of all trees removed for the project are in LFP, which increases both greenhouse and noise impacts.

Our segment creates the biggest impact on stormwater runoff with more impervious surfaces affecting three fish streams in LFP.

Ours has the largest noise impacts of any segment, including several properties considered “unacceptable for residential land use without mitigation.”

I don't believe any of you would want a project of this nature in your community. Please consider our requests to develop design refinements and improved mitigation plans by working with our community and City. And please consider our requests to postpone work on the LFP segment for 90 days or more. There's really nothing to lose and everything to gain financially and environmentally.