

May 10, 2023

Re: SR522/145 BRT LFP

To: Sound Transit Board of Directors

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I have been asked to comment on ST3 transit expansion on Bothell Way in Lake Forest Park by homeowners fronting HWY 522 being asked to negotiate Acquisition and Easement contracts.

During my over 20 year tenure as founder and owner of Goodbye Graffiti in Seattle, I have seen the success and failure of different transit routes firsthand. Most recently we were contracted by Sound Transit for graffiti removal at 42 Sound Transit stations along with many other continuing contracts. My observation of similar urbanist projects leads to a stark conclusion about these proposed Lake Forest Park expansions, especially with no planned street and sidewalk lighting.

The most blatant problems from my considerable experience are given as follows:

- This section is extremely poorly lit at night, which has already led to a fair amount of property crime in the area. Night time is completely dark along most of this stretch.
- Being poorly lit, it feels unsafe for pedestrians to and from transit opportunities, is a graffiti magnet, litter will follow and fulfills every prerequisite for a greater influx of crime.
- Crime damages the usability of transit and degrades the neighborhood. Crime also tends to attract more of itself. That degeneration will only hurt the area's success in transit use.
- The long, large retaining walls and flat surface as proposed are a huge "palette" for gang and wantabe graffiti artists. This part of the project could not be a more tempting target!

These problems generally follow a pattern, first observed and then those that naturally follow from the preceding problem. Graffiti is a sign of urban decay. It is widely known that graffiti itself is the precursor to even greater issues. In my many years of work and observation in Seattle and surrounding areas, all of these above instances have been notable. The pattern is clear.

There are a few ways to mitigate the issues outlined above that have proven to be effective:

- Sidewalk lighting would be a powerful deterrent right now, but an absolute necessity for the added foot traffic as sidewalks are added, especially with less natural light in winter.
- An active maintenance plan and upkeep of the large walls and sidewalk border plants is essential to keeping the area safe and therefore keeping transit more accessible for all.
- Eyes on the street are essential to deter graffiti and crime. A lower speed limit generates less traffic noise and pedestrians feel safer, leading to more use of sidewalks and transit.

I hope my experience and thoughts can guide the city of Lake Forest Park toward a better plan.

Laurie Spivack, President Goodbye Graffiti (Attached are walls that work for this community)



= ZERO MAINTENENCE (DAMPENS TRAFFIC NOISE)
= HAVE NEVER BEEN GRAFFITI TAGGED
= Edmonds Peak - 76th Street at Perronville

DAMPENS TRAFFIC NOISE

ZERO MAINTENENCE

NEVER GRAFFITI

TAGGED

Bothell's Peak





= DAMPENS TRAFFIC NOISE
= NEVER GRAFFITI TAGGED
= ZERO MAINTENENCE
= Both Aspects