



Eastin, Darryl

From: Judith Hodson <hod12@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 12:09 AM
To: Eastin, Darryl
Subject: RE:Scope EIS for Point Wells Urban Center

Dear Mr. Eastin,

I live on 11th Avenue NW in Richmond Beach, a dead-end street just a half block off Richmond Beach Road. Our family has lived in Shoreline since 1966 and in Richmond Beach since 1992. We have come to appreciate the area as one of the most peaceful and family-friendly communities in all of the Greater Seattle area. Virtually all of the community amenities are within walking distance for most of the residents and include a library with adjacent play field, a church, two additional parks, an elementary school, a teen center with a bowling alley, corner stores, restaurants, coffee shops, a barber shop; all accessible primarily from Richmond Beach Road. Currently traffic on Richmond Beach Road is already problematic with cars dangerously close to a narrow sidewalk, with no protective barrier. A large percentage of the cars seem to exceed the speed limit, especially while going down hill.

Therefore, while walking, a child needs to have a hand held and bicycling is too dangerous for a child under present conditions.

Children need to be transported by automobile to these close-by community resources, not because of distance, but for safety precautions, further adding to the traffic on Richmond Beach Road. There are NO other routes!

I do not see how it is possible to mitigate this problem, with the expected traffic volume estimated to increase to approximately 11,000 trips per day. A previous study, long before the Point Wells development was an issue, suggested that Richmond Beach Road be converted to three lanes, rather than the current four, with a central turning lane and a wider verge. That would not appear to be a satisfactory option now with the expected volume increase, although I would still advocate for this.

Compounding this issue is safety of pedestrians on 190th Street NW, which serves as a shortcut between Richmond Beach Road and 8th Avenue NW. It is the only access for all of the streets between 8th Avenue NW and Richmond Beach Road (9th, 10th and 11th Avenues NW). The road is narrow, there are no sidewalks, no parking and it is hazardous for all pedestrians, as traffic has continually increased for cars destined to travel north on 8th Avenue NW. It is particularly hazardous after dark when a pedestrian has to step off the road into a ditch, wet grass or slippery mud to be out of the way of approaching cars. This is a concern for all of us, children and adults alike, who frequently walk to the shopping center on Richmond Beach Road and 8th. It is especially hazardous for the school children walking or cycling to and from Einstein Middle School and Shorewood High School, many of whom continue down Richmond Beach Road. Traffic circles (roundabouts) at each intersection and sidewalks would appear to be the only solution here.

The existing speed bumps don't seem to deter the short-cutters.

Most of our concerns relate to traffic and safety; however, other environmental concerns merit consideration. These include noise and pollution from that traffic, including noise from Medic One, fire and police vehicles--now quite frequent, often through the night. A third concern is the mitigation of the noise, traffic and pollution resulting from deconstructing the current oil storage containers.

Could it not be mandated that all deconstruction utilize barge and waterway routes for disposal of hazardous material? The noise of heavy transport trucks struggling up the rather steep hill of Richmond Beach Road will be horrendous. Several of our acquaintances decided to move away from Richmond Beach Road and 185th St. several years ago when there was all-night traffic from oil tank transport trucks struggling up the hill in low gear, moving oil from the storage tanks at Point Wells. That traffic abated with most comings and goings from Point Wells now occurring through marine routes.

It does not seem possible with the current topography and single road access to Point Wells to mitigate these hazardous and environmentally difficult issues, quite apart from totally disrupting the existing tranquility of the Richmond Beach community.

Respectfully submitted,

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