



To: Kerry Pihlstrom, Engineering Manager, SR-520 Replacement & HOV Program
Seattle City Council
Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn
State Senator Ed Murray
State Representatives Frank Chopp & Jamie Pedersen

From: Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Date: December 231, 2012

Re: SR-520 Design

Dear City, State and WSDOT Leaders,

As you may know, “the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting an economically vital, livable community and promoting Capitol Hill as a unique urban neighborhood that is welcoming to everyone.” To these ends, it is important that WSDOT create a design for the replacement SR-520 that works for Capitol Hill.

Through the SR-520 Community Design Process, an overwhelming number of residents of Capitol Hill and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as Capitol Hill organizations such as the Capitol Hill Community Council, Sustainable Capitol Hill, and Central Seattle Greenways have communicated that the current designs fails to adequately serve people who are trying to do business on Capitol Hill by walking or biking.

As the Board of Directors of the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce we are adding our name to this growing chorus of Capitol Hill voices asking for better facilities along the Portage Bay Bridge and through the Montlake area so that people can safely, efficiently, and comfortably access Capitol Hill businesses by bike or on foot.

Creating a direct, safe, and low-grade route from Capitol Hill to the University District and beyond will likely generate new foot and bicycle traffic for Capitol Hill businesses. Additionally, connecting Capitol Hill to a regional trail system including the Burke Gilman Trail, the proposed Trans-Lake Washington Trail, and the proposed Arboretum Trail will make Capitol Hill a more livable and desirable

neighborhood. Currently there is no safe or comfortable route between Capitol Hill and North East Seattle neighborhoods and trails due to the topographic realities of North Capitol Hill.

We strongly urge the City Council and WSDOT to collaboratively modify the design so that our limited public dollars can be spent wisely to interconnect our neighborhoods for people regardless of whether they choose to travel by car, transit, bicycle, or on foot. If done correctly, the new SR-520 would help keep our community economically viable, livable, and accessible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Wells

Executive Director
Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce
1641 Nagle Place Suite 003
Seattle, WA 98122
206-328-6646