



October 25, 2019

To Mayor Jenny Durkan, the City Council and the Federal Transit Authority:

Over the years, the Eastlake Community Council has commented frequently and extensively on the many trade-offs represented by the RapidRide J Line project – parking, left-turn lanes, bus stops, bike lanes, transit considerations, neighborhood business impact and safety issues.

Our neighborhood and those surrounding us are experiencing rapid growth, and we understand the need for improved transportation.

If you lived in Eastlake or owned a business here, you would have questions about how the RapidRide J Line project was going to benefit the community or your business.

At the April meeting at TOPS Seward School much of the negative feedback came from the fact that there was nothing new that would tell us our concerns had been taken seriously. There were no noticeable changes to the plan that was presented to the neighborhood at other public meetings. We were told to trust that our concerns would be addressed as much as possible. Considering our past experience, would this reassure you if you lived in Eastlake?

We shared our concerns in detail in past communications with the Seattle Department of Transportation. We would gladly send them again if requested. We know our neighborhood will not be exactly as it was 10 years ago. We are simply asking for more partnership with the City to make this major change in our neighborhood produce the best result for all of us.

The ECC board took a majority vote at its September meeting to formally oppose the project as it is currently configured. We did not come to this decision easily. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with the other stakeholders and reach a better outcome for our neighbors.

Mr. Merrill and his SDOT team are the traffic experts, we are the people who live here. It is vital that we work with the traffic experts to get the best possible system for all concerned. We respectfully request that you assign a SDOT representative to discuss critical design issues in working sessions with the ECC board.

Sincerely,

Detra K Segar, President
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