



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

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Secretary of Transportation

**Engineering and Regional Operations**  
**SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program**  
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July 18, 2011

LTR - 2172

Yarrow Point Councilmembers  
Mayor David Cooper  
Town of Yarrow Point  
4030 95th Ave NE  
Yarrow Point, WA 98004

Dear Yarrow Point Councilmembers and Mayor David Cooper:

In response to your request at your July 12 town council meeting, WSDOT has quickly evaluated a non-roundabout design at the 92nd Avenue Northeast and SR 520 westbound off-ramp connection. In doing so, WSDOT applied the change criteria established by the Governor for any design changes in this corridor, developed in response to questions raised last year about the 84th Avenue Northeast interchange design. Specifically, the Governor's criteria were: 1) no significant delay or cost increase to the project; 2) consensus among the Points jurisdictions (later defined as a 3-1 vote); and 3) the solution must perform the same or better than the approved design.

I am writing to let you know that WSDOT will not be changing the design for the 92nd Avenue Northeast interchange. Our cursory review has revealed that two of the Governor's three criteria cannot be met given the status of the current project. First, the project has been awarded, contracts have been signed and the construction work is under way. Changes to the configuration at this time would most certainly cause significant cost and time impacts. Given this, we will proceed with the approved design.

As you know, WSDOT's partnership with Yarrow Point goes back many years and we hope to keep that partnership strong. We have worked together on the SR 520 Eastside project to develop a design that is sensitive to the local communities and meets regional transportation needs. The 92nd Avenue Northeast lid and roundabout design were developed with input from numerous stakeholders, and have been part of a collaborative and transparent outreach process that dates back to fall 2006. The roundabout design was developed and supported through multiple community and jurisdictional design committees, vetted through preliminary design and environmental scoping, and ratified through two key environmental documents: the Environmental Assessment, published in December 2009, and the Finding of No Significant Impacts, published in May 2010.

During those critical decision-making milestones, we consistently received support for the roundabout design, which was highlighted and discussed in project scoping meetings, open houses, Yarrow Point council meetings, other Eastside council meetings, as well as through mailings to the communities and materials published on the WSDOT website. With

construction well under way, the time to revisit a significant design element that would affect so many other elements in the project and in the construction contract has passed.

Thank for your understanding and for your work over the years to bring the SR 520 project to fruition. We value our working relationship, as well as your persistence and patience to develop this project. We are committed to working with all the Eastside jurisdictions as we move forward to implement a project that meets both local and regional needs. If you have other questions, please feel free to call or email me at 206-770-3568 or [meredjl@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:meredjl@wsdot.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Julie Meredith, P.E.  
SR 520 Program Director

cc: Councilmember Bruce Jones, Town of Yarrow Point  
Councilmember Carl Scandella, Town of Yarrow Point  
Councilmember Tim Dillon, Town of Yarrow Point  
Councilmember Lisa Mushel, Town of Yarrow Point  
Councilmember Roger Myklebust, Town of Yarrow Point  
Mayor George Martin, City of Clyde Hill  
Mayor Fred McConkey, Town of Hunts Point  
Mayor Bret Jordan, City of Medina  
Councilmember Mark Nelson, City of Medina  
Senator Rodney Tom, 48th District  
Representative Ross Hunter, 48th District  
Representative Deb Eddy, 48th District  
Marty Loesch, Governor Gregoire's Chief of Staff  
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Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT Chief Engineer