

Appendix G

Steve Roark response to West Sound Cycle Club UBIT letter



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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December 14, 2022

Councilmember Jeff Coughlin
City of Bremerton
345 6th Street
Suite 100
Bremerton, WA 98337

Dear Councilmember Coughlin,

I am writing today to acknowledge the City of Bremerton's efforts to improve the Warren Avenue bridge for all users and to share some perspective and provide clarification regarding the various options under consideration. The addition of multi-use facilities across the Port Washington Narrows will enhance the corridor greatly and I know this has been an important goal for the community for many years. The suite of bridge widening options currently under consideration have advantages and disadvantages and, like all transportation improvements, the ongoing community engagement will inform what option moves forward.

As part of this process, there is discussion of an option that would widen the bridge to provide a multi-use path with a width of twelve feet or more. While the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is supportive of such widths for pathways, we do need to take into consideration the context and feasibility on a case-by-case basis. In this case, any option that includes a twelve-foot path creates a maintenance inspection barrier, since our Under Bridge Inspection Truck (UBIT) fleet is not capable of fully servicing this configuration on the Warren Avenue bridge. The selection and configuration of our current UBIT fleet have been deliberate and tailored to meet the inspection needs of the roughly 3,300 bridges across the state.

To be clear, WSDOT looks forward to supporting the best option that achieves the goals of the project and it is WSDOT's preference that the process of selecting a preferred option takes into consideration the limitations of our UBIT fleet. If the preferred option exceeds the capabilities of our UBIT fleet, we expect the design and construction phase of the project to include appropriate mitigation. Mitigation could include construction of an inspection platform that provides additional inspection

Councilmember Coughlin
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access or an operational review of our inspection program, which could include the additional capital and ownership/operational costs of an additional, unique UBIT.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Roark".

Steve Roark
Olympic Region Administrator

SR/cb

CC: Sen. Emily Randall
B. Chamberlin
E. Grimm
Mayor Greg Wheeler, COB
Tom Knuckey, COB
Vickey Clarke, CBC
Dianne Iverson, WSCC