

Swift, Lauren

From: Jonas Buck <jonasdeltuva@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 10:46 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Proposed Light Rail Project and the Latvian Center

To Whom It May Concern,

I-287-001 I am a member of the Seattle Lithuanian-American Community and a supporter of mass transit. That said, I would like to express my concerns for the current proposals to build a light rail station adjacent to the Latvian Center in Northgate. First, I do not believe Sound Transit has acknowledged the cultural significance of this site in its planning process. Second, the physical interruption of construction and operation of an overhead light rail line would imperil the ability of community members to celebrate our cultures and traditions.

For all 22 years of my life, the Latvian Community has been gracious to open the Latvian Center to the Lithuanian-American Community for large and small events. Every Sunday, my Lithuanian folk dance group practiced in the basement of Latvian Center for Vasario Sesiulikta (February 16th), our annual Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration, which is still held at the Latvian Center. As a former member of the Soviet bloc, we take this celebration very seriously. These events turned into memories are formative to my parallel identities as a Lithuanian and a Seattleite, and I would be disappointed to see the latter cross the former.

I-287-002 Seeing that many cultural groups routinely use the Latvian Center for preparation and celebration, Sound Transit should strive to interrupt these activities as little as possible in the construction and placement of the new light rail line. Please take whatever steps necessary to mitigate noise and destruction both during construction and once the train is running. We would prefer the grade-level option for this. It is also important that the Latvian Center remain accessible through the maintenance of the caretaker's house and the abundance of parking, so as not to disrupt the neighborhood during events attended by hundreds of people. A seizure of the property by eminent domain - or the disregard of the physical conditions created by construction of a light rail line - would show disrespect for the history and culture of the Baltic States and our diaspora's presence in the United States of America and the Pacific Northwest.

I-287-003

Please consider our community's well-being as we expand connectivity across the region.

Thank you,
Jonas Deltuva Buck

I-287-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

I-287-002

The noise analysis for the Lynnwood Link uses the FTA impact criteria and Sound Transit mitigates noise impacts to levels below these criteria. Sound Transit's policy is to mitigate moderate or severe impacts as per FTA criteria. Potential mitigation measures for noise are described in Section 4.7.7 of the Final EIS.

Noise walls are planned for all alternatives in this area, either at-grade or elevated, as mitigation for the light rail impacts. For construction, the local construction noise ordinance would be applicable, and Sound Transit is committed to maintaining construction noise levels within the criteria. Further, construction noise for this project is similar to construction noise for a paving project, building construction, or any other construction projects, and Sound Transit would work with local residences and businesses to minimize construction impacts.

For nighttime construction, which will likely be required due to the heavy volumes of traffic on I-5 and other arterial roads, a noise variance would be required from each of the cities where construction would be performed. During that time, Sound Transit will work with the local

jurisdiction to arrive at construction specifications that minimize construction-related impacts to nearby communities.

I-287-003

Thank you for your comments expressing concern about the potential impacts to the Seattle Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church property. As mentioned in the response to comment I-287-001 above, Sound Transit has redesigned the Segment A alternatives so that none of them would displace the church or center. The caretaker's residence would need to be relocated due to the realigned roadway, but Sound Transit would provide for the relocation. Parking supply would also be maintained for the church and center.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Juris Cilnis, MD

ADDRESS: 10702 Lakeside Ave NE

CITY: San Hc STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98125

EMAIL ADDRESS: cilnis@carthagenet.net

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

I-288-001

Comments

I would like to point out that the Latvian Church and Community center represents the social matrix and fabric of a great many people - hundreds, perhaps thousands.

Losing the church/center would shred that fabric - from children to youth to senior citizens.

The human cost of such can not be calculated in dollars and cents.

Please consider this in your deliberations.

J. Cilnis, MD

9/15/13



I-288-001

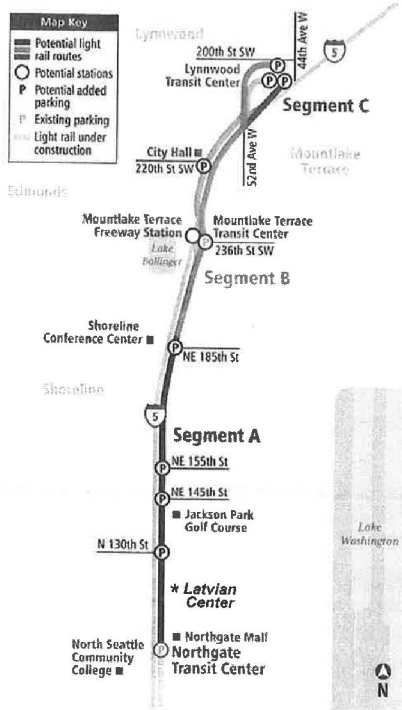
Thank you for describing the cultural and social importance of the church and center. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Latviešu Biedrība Vašingtona
Štatā

INFORMĀCIJA

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nr.204



Is this the end
of the line for
the Latvian
Community in
Seattle? Will
the Latvian
Community
once again lose
its Church and
Center?

Reporting begins on page 3

*Latvian Society Newsletter
sept, 2013*



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: DOUGLAS & SILVIJA COPELAND

ADDRESS: 20725 121st Ave S.E.

CITY: SNODHOMISH STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98296

EMAIL ADDRESS: doug.copeland@hotmail.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-289-001

CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE LATVIAN CENTER IN SEATTLE AT 1770 3RD AVE NE IS CRITICAL TO THE FINANCIAL SUSTENANCE OF OUR FACILITY. WE HOST AN ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE WHICH OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY GOODS DONATED LARGELY BY MEMBERS. THIS BENEFITS US AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS WELL AS OTHER CHARITIES WHO RECEIVE OUR LEFT-OVER MERCHANDISE. WE HAVE SOLD OVER \$200,000 OF GOODS OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, WITH A STEADY, IMPROVING TREND. THIS WEEK-LONG EVENT TAKES PLACE IN APRIL, AND OUR MANY REPEAT CUSTOMERS EAGERLY ANTICIPATE RETURNING EVERY YEAR. THUS, AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SALE FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, WE STRONGLY FAVOR A DESIGN WHICH PRESERVES ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION AND MINIMIZES LOSS OF ANY PART OF THE PROPERTY.

Douglas P Copeland *Silvija Copeland* 

I-289-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the church and center to the community including its financial contributions. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE which avoids the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the edge of the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

Memorandum

To: Sound Transit Board, c/o Lauren Swift
From: Ian D. Cotton, PE, LEED AP
Date: 9/19/2013
Re: Lynnwood Link DEIS Comments

I am writing to propose an alternate route to the C1, C2, C3 routes as proposed by Sound Transit in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The routes as proposed by Sound Transit have the following negative impacts:

- C1: Noise, displacement, aesthetics to large Single Family zone community. Wetland and park impacts. Displacement of businesses. Impact to School District property.
- C2: Same as C1.
- C3: Wetland and park impacts. Future impact to multiple businesses as future extension takes route directly into existing hotel. Negatively impacts future development efforts in the Lynnwood City Center.

Please see attached the mark-ups to the Draft EIS drawings C1M-PP03, C2M-PP03 and C3M-PP02. This propose routing has been laid out using the minimum track curvatures as taken from Sound Transit Draft EIS drawings.

This proposed routing is far from Single Family zoned communities, avoids businesses and School District property, minimizes the crossing of the wetlands, and aligns the future extension of the track with a major roadway should voters approve ST3 light rail extensions. In addition this alignment places the station near the bus terminals at the SE corner of the existing bus station preserving existing investment in infrastructure.

Please add this memo and attachments to the record of comments and input for the DEIS comment period ending on September 23, 2013.

Regards,

Ian D. Cotton, PE, LEED AP

Attachments: Mark-ups to drawings C1M-PP03, C2M-PP03 and C3M-PP02

I-290-001

Thank you for your comment describing your impacts of concern with the three Segement C alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS.

I-290-002

The proposed alignments for C1 and C2 were not further modified; C3 modifications were considered in developing the Preferred Alternative. See Chapter 2 for a description.

I-290-001

I-290-002

SOUND TRANSIT LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION

I-290-002



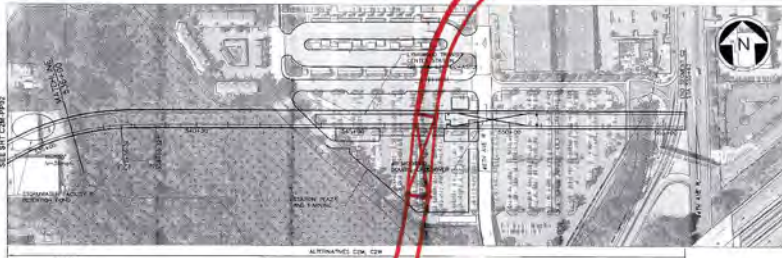
I. Cotton 09/19/2013

DRAFT EIS - CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
TRACK PLAN & PROFILE AND ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION
I-5 - ALT. C1M

DWG NO. C1M 0903
 SHEET 49 OF 142
 REV. NO. 13

SOUND TRANSIT LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION

I-290-002



North Corridor
Transit Partners

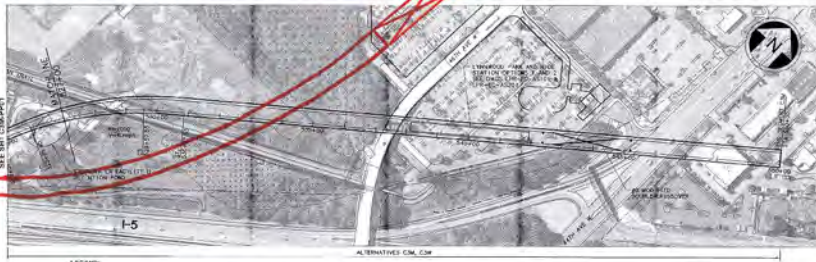
I-COTBOW 01/19/2013

DRAFT EIS - CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
TRACK PLAN & PROFILE AND ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION
I-5 - ALT. C2M

DWG NO. C2M_PPD3
SHEET 33 OF 142
REV. NO. 3

SOUND TRANSIT LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION

I-290-002



- LEGEND:**
- NO TRACK CENTERLINE
 - TRACK
 - STRUCTURE
 - PAVEMENT
 - OUT WALL
 - AS-BUILT
 - WOODY/OF COMPATIBILITY LIMITS
 - WOODY ROW
 - STRADDLE BENT
 - COLUMN
 - TRAFFIC SIGNAL
 - W/LANE



I. Cotton 09/19/2013

DRAFT EIS - CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
TRACK PLAN & PROFILE AND ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION
I-5 - ALT. C3M

DWG NO. C3M-P002
 SHEET 55 OF 142
 REV. NO. 3

From: Paul Dermanis <pdermanis@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 1969 6:44 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Cc: Sarma Davidson
Subject: Light Rail Extension

Gentlemen:

I have been a member of the Latvian Church and Association for many years. I have also practiced architecture in Seattle for more than 40 years and am currently retired. My former firm, Streeter/Dermanis & Associates, did a number of projects for the Department of Transportation.

I-291-001 Concerning the extension of light rail from Northgate to Lynnwood and the impact on the Latvian Community Center, several alternatives are being considered - grade level, elevated, other location.

There is an alternative that to me seems realistic and has not been given sufficient consideration - locating the rails in a depressed ditch covered by a concrete lid - similar to Battery Street tunnel in Belltown. This would eliminate almost all noise and visibility of the trains. The layout of the Latvian Center could remain as it is now with the entrance in the present location.

I think the cost of the depressed alternative will be higher than the others. It may not be much higher than the elevated alternative.

The way to find out is to do a study with a layout and a cost estimate. Then the additional cost would be known in fairly exact numbers. It is not just the Latvian Center that would benefit from the depressed version. There are many other buildings, residential and commercial, that would also benefit.

To me the depressed version is the only one that does not have a major negative impact on the Latvian Center. I think Sound Transit should at least do a preliminary study to establish the additional cost of the depressed version.

Very truly yours,
Paul Dermanis AIA
116 NW 55th Street
Seattle, WA 98107
206-783-3873

I-291-001

Thank you for your suggestion; Sound Transit has developed a different approach to avoid displacing the church and center. A retained cut alignment would still require displacement of the church because it would have an extended closure of the access road. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: ANDREA DROUGAS

ADDRESS: 515 Laurel Drive

CITY: Everett STATE: Wa ZIP CODE: 98201

EMAIL ADDRESS: andrea.drougas@gmail.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

I have been active in the Seattle Latin Community since 1984. Moving up to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, one of the first things I did was come to an event at the Latin Center to meet fellow Latinians and find ways to become involved in the community. Since 1984, I have performed as a dancer, attended church, participated in countless Latin Community events and functions, all located at the Seattle Latin Center. Yesterday, my 2 year old son started Latin school. With his Latin activities and mine, we find ourselves at the Latin Center 2-3 times a week. I absolutely can't imagine not having our Latin Center and Church as a place to meet.

Both the Latin Center and Church are vital to the continuation of our culture and traditions. We are a culture that gathers. We gather to sing, to dance, to remember our ancestors and to pass on our traditions to the next generation. Losing the Latin Center or even losing access to the Center and Church would be devastating to our Latin Community.

I-292-001

Sincerely,

Andrea Drougas



I-292-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the church and center to you and your family. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Gaigalaite, Ausra <agaigalaite@Riddellwilliams.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:22 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Comments for Lynnwood Link Extension - DEIS

Lauren,

I am writing regarding the potential impact of Sound Transit Link to Lynnwood for the following property:
Latvian Center
11710 3rd Ave N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125

This property is the gathering place for Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian communities in the area. The communities celebrate national holidays and have special events in this building/church. Having the construction so close to the building might make the building unusable for such events. These events are important to keep our traditions alive and to communicate with other community members.

I-293-001 | As an active member of Lithuanian community, I would like to ask you to please ensure that there is plenty of room to access this building during and after the construction. It would be great if we could have adequate parking as well. The center should not be closed during construction since that would cause the suspension of all community events and that would be unduly burdensome for our small community. I would prefer the at-grade option, not the elevated option.

I-293-002 | Moreover, please mitigate as much as possible the construction and post-construction impacts (dust, noise, vibration, light) to this property.

If the relocation of the center were to be required, the relocation property needs to be the same size or bigger and it needs to be located in the same general location, since any dramatic change in the location or size of the Center would impact my use of the center greatly.

I-293-003 | Another request I have is to consider extending the link north to Ash Way Park and Ride. The Ash Way Park and Ride is heavily used. The parking lot is very full by 7 am and it could use some extensions/upgrades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
Ausra Gaigalaite
D 206.389.1704
agaigalaite@riddellwilliams.com

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I-293-001

Your preference for an at-grade alignment that avoids the church is noted, and thank you for describing the importance of the church and center to you and your family. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-293-002

Although construction activities will be adjacent to the church, Sound Transit will work closely with the church to maintain access, minimize parking loss, and reduce other potential construction disruptions to ongoing church and center activities. The primary construction in the area would be ongoing for about 1-2 years in the area, but major construction activities would be shorter duration. For temporary impacts such as truck traffic, detours, noise, dust, light and glare, Sound Transit proposes best management practices to avoid and minimize impacts in Sections 3.6, 4.5.7, 4.6.7, and 4.7.7. The construction area would also be fenced to protect public safety.

I-293-003

Thank you for your suggestion to extend the light rail line north of the Lynnwood Transit Center to the Ash Way Park-and-Ride. The project evaluated in the Final EIS is limited to the extension of the light rail system between Northgate and the Lynnwood Transit Center. The Sound Transit Long-Range Plan, however, calls for the eventual extension of the light rail line further north to the city of Everett.

exempt from disclosure under applicable law. You are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication by someone other than the intended addressee or its designated agent is strictly prohibited. As required by the Internal Revenue Service, anything contained in this communication pertaining to any U.S. federal tax matter is not to be used for the purpose of avoiding federal tax penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or for promoting, marketing or recommending to any third party the tax implications of any partnership or other entity, investment plan or arrangement discussed in this communication. If you have received this communication in error, please notify this firm immediately by collect call (206)-624-3600, or by reply to this communication.

I-294-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Preferred Alternative and other alternatives now avoid displacing the church and center. See Chapter 2 for a description.

From: Peteris A. Galins <pylgalins@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian Church and Community Center

I and my family have used the subject property since it was built by the Latvian community with their own hands and their own financial support(I personally and my family were among the contributors).. We have been members of the Latvian Lutheran Church and the Latvian Association since 1960. We attend the church services regularly and use the community hall for many reasons such as sunday school, choir rehearsals, social functions, weddings,funerals, bapltisms, confirmations, musical events, theater and many more. I was the conductor and music director of the Latvian Choir for 30 years with its top membership of 70 singers. The Latvian center was our home and totally essential for our existence then, and still is today after I retired. We organized West Coast Latvian Song Festivals, three of which were held in Seattle using Latvian community center for some of its functions.

I-294-001

The Latvian Lutheran Church and Community Center is the mainstay of the Latvian people who desire the liberty,freedom and the right to exercise their religious beliefs in their own church. further their ethnic culture through songs, plays, folkdancing and schooling of next generations in the facility that their own people built with their own hands, sweat and strain.

I hope, you can understand the immense importance for our community to retain The Latvian Lutheran Church and The Community Center in its current excellent operational status, availability to our people for reasons that are strong,will never change and, for people who have been oppressed by dictators and communism for most of their country's existence, can only be accomplished in our current home The United States of America!

Where there is will, there is a way!

Peteris A Galins
Retired choir director of the Latvian Community
16623 116th PL SE
Renton, WA 98058
pylgalins@aol.com

From: Mona Gilkerson <monagilkerson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Cc: Loren Simmonds; Sid Roberts; Van AuBuchon; Christopher Boyer; Kerri Lonergan-Dreke; Benjamin Goodwin; Mark Smith
Subject: Sound Transit Lynnwood Link of the Light Rail Project

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long-time resident (of more than 20 years) of Lynnwood, and as a resident/ homeowner at Cedar Creek Condominiums for that entire 20 years, I would like to voice my opinion on the route to be chosen for the Sound Transit Lynnwood Link.

I-295-001 I would strongly recommend the C1 Route as proposed by Sound Transit. It seems that this route has the least impact on wetlands and, as I hope most are aware of, wetlands are vital to our environment and general quality of life. There are reasons that federal guidelines have been put in place to protect these areas. To override or ask for exceptions to this extent would be short-sighted and a disservice to future generations. In addition, C1 appears to be the most convenient route for the existing park and ride - even the "proposed" C4 would be inconvenient and would disrupt traffic flow on I-5 for commuters so significantly that it could have far reaching consequences.

I-295-002 On a more personal note, I realize that C1 would displace Cedar Creek Condominiums, but I even find that to be a positive. These condominiums were built in 1977/ 1978. This makes them 35 years old. These condominiums were not built well and the upkeep is expensive. The Association has an annual operating budget in excess of \$330,000.00, with the current cost of homeowner dues being in excess of \$350 a month. The expectation is that this dollar amount will only increase over the years, and we are already experiencing a high rate of delinquencies and foreclosures. This can only mean that the upkeep of these condominiums will diminish over time. The value of these condominiums have already decreased significantly over the past years - to less than half of what they were valued at five years ago.

Again, as a homeowner at Cedar Creek Condominiums, I would personally like to recommend the utilization of Route C1. Thank you for taking the time to count my voice!

Mona Gilkerson

--

Mona J Gilkerson
4820 200th St SW, Unit #B-102
Lynnwood, WA 98036
Cell: 206-915-8259
Fax: 425-776-9270

I-295-001

Thank you for your comment stating your preference for Alternative C1 and the reasons why you support this alternative.

I-295-002

Sound Transit notes your comments regarding the Cedar Creek Condominiums.

email: monagikerson@gmail.com



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: MELITA GRAUS

ADDRESS: 23212 58 AVE S.

CITY: KENT STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98032

EMAIL ADDRESS: MELINGR@CENTURYLINK.NET

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Comments

THE LATVIAN CENTER / CHURCH IS A GATHERING PLACE FOR LATVIAN - LITHUANIAN / ESTONIAN DESCENT PEOPLE TO MEET AT AND PARTAKE OF THEIR HERITAGE. FOR ME, I JOINED THE LATVIAN CHURCH AFTER TRYING OUT "AMERICAN" CHURCHES BECAUSE I MISSED WHAT I GREW WITH IN LINCOLN NEBR. I MOVED TO SEATTLE AREA 8 YEARS AGO, I DO COME HERE TO SEE LATVIAN THEATER GROUPS' PLAYS, MUSIC PROGRAMS, DANCE PROGRAMS, LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATION PROGRAMS, ETC. THE CENTER / CHURCH IS USED FOR MANY CULTURAL PROGRAMS, GET TOGETHERS, ETC. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO ME BUT TO ALL THOSE CULTURAL GROUPS WHO COME HERE USE IT. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR HERITAGES ALIVE AND THIS CENTER IS A WONDERFUL MEANS TO DO SO. EVEN 5 YEAR OLDS ENJOY COMING TO LATVIAN LANGUAGE / HERITAGE CLASSES ON SATURDAYS (MINE WERE ON FRIDAY NIGHTS IN LINCOLN). I HAVE HEARD FROM LITHUANIANS AND ESTONIANS WHO ALL SAY THE SAME THINGS FOR THEIR HERITAGES. PLEASE LET US ALL KEEP THIS CENTER FOR OUR USE IN THE FUTURE. IF IT GOES AWAY, IT WILL PROBABLY BE THE END OF CULTURAL HERITAGES FOR MANY PEOPLE.

Melita Graus



I-296-001

Thank you for describing the cultural importance of the church to you and the Latvian-Lithuanian-Estonian community in the Seattle area. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-296-001

Draft EIS Comment
c/o Laura Swift
401 S. Jackson St,
Seattle, WA 98104

September 17, 2013

Dear Sound Transit Board

My name is Karl "Karlis" Grendze and I am an active member of the Latvian Community in Seattle Washington. I am a council member of the Seattle Latvian Lutheran Church and Vice Chairman/Facilities Director of the West Coast Latvian Education Center in Shelton, WA.

I arrived in Seattle, on September 6th 2004, when I showed up Labor Day that year in truck towing my boat, hope and a few other things. I just came off a 2003 year where my entire life collapsed in front of my face, my father passed away, my wife left me and I lost my job, while I was living in Orlando, FL. After a tough year I decided that restarting in a new community would be the healthiest way for me to recover.

In my past I have able to travel throughout most of the continental United States. When I came to Seattle in 2002 to visit one of my best friends, who had moved here seven years prior, I fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and I promised to myself that if opportunity ever presented itself that I would move to Seattle.

One of the most compelling reasons I came to town was vibrancy and involvement of the local Latvian Community. During my twelve years in Orlando a big part of me was missing as it does not have a Latvian Community. The Latvian Community was the tipping point in my decision to move here and is a key reason I am still here and active.

I-297-001 The Seattle Latvian Church and Community Center is the epicenter of the Baltic Community in the Pacific Northwest and arguably the entire West Coast. Without this facility I would not have had a community to come to and most likely would not be here. Any disruption to this vital cultural hub would be detrimental and would diminish the rich and diverse essence that makes the Puget Sound Area unique and world class.

As a registered voter, community volunteer and contributing member of this community I ask that you consider the cultural significance of our facility when finalizing the plans for the Lynnwood Link Extension. Most Latvian agree and support light rail, our hope is that Sound Transit Board recognizes us and is willing to work with us to mitigate the potential negative impact of this project.

Karl Grendze
1024 Central Ave N, H-5
Kent, WA 98032
kgrendze@gmail.com
206-930-9411

I-297-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the church and hall to you and the Latvian community. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Monica Haynes <monica@apmmanage.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 4:24 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Cc: Dan Dale; Kirsten Bellar; maddiebellar@comcast.net
Subject: FW: Comments

Please see below.

From: Monica Haynes
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 4:11 PM
To: 'LynnwoodLinkDEIS@soundtransit.org'
Cc: 'Dan Dale'; 'Kirsten Bellar'
Subject: Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

As an 18-year long owner of a single family residence at 18733 12th Ave. N.E., Shoreline, WA 98155, I have great concerns regarding the impact of the future transit station. I have reviewed the alternatives for the parking lot locations and given thought to the increased traffic on various streets.

I-298-001 I STRONGLY support the A1 parking alternative for the following reasons:

1. The location (west side of I-5) would spread the impact between both sides of I-5, with the new station on the east side of I-5.
2. There is a far greater percentage of the Shoreline population on the west side of I-5.
3. The location allows the parking lot to be tucked into the hillside without encroaching on the stadium, causing less of a negative visual impact.
4. The A1 alternative is less costly and less noisy, being at grade level and not elevated.
5. The A-1 alternative does not require people to lose their homes.

I-298-002 5. Perkins Lane and N.E. 188th St. are links between 15th Ave. N.E. and 10th Ave. N.E. These are narrow roads without sidewalks and visibility is poor as one travels up and down the windy roads. As it is, people in and outside the neighborhood drive in the middle of the road and too fast. There are many children and pets in these areas. One elderly lady on N.E. 188th walks to North City to shop and go to church practically every day. These streets CANNOT handle any increased traffic that would certainly occur if the parking lot were in the vicinity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Monica Haynes
18733 12th Ave. N.E.
Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 300-9802

I-298-001

Thank you for your comment stating your preference for Alternative A1 and the specific advantages you see with placement of the parking garage for the NE 185th Street Station on the west side of I-5.

I-298-002

Thank you for describing your concerns over additional traffic on neighborhood streets. It is anticipated that less than 10% of station related traffic will originate east of 10th Avenue, which lowers the potential that cut-through traffic would be a problem on neighborhood streets. However, section 3.6.5 describes the mitigation measures Sound Transit proposes to minimize potential impacts.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Roger & Eileen HORNER

ADDRESS: 1037 NE 187th St.

CITY: Shoreline STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98155

EMAIL ADDRESS: RHORNER7@Juno.com - (Roger's)

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-299-001

We prefer the option of A-1. No houses would be displaced, and the parking area on the West side would serve the stadium as well as Sound Transit.

Option A-1 is the best service that has been presented.



I-299-001

Thank you for your comment stating your preference for Alternative A1 and the advantages to having the parking garage on the west side of I-5.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Jahina Jansevics

ADDRESS: 24007-48th Ave W.

CITY: Mountlake Terrace STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98043

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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Comments

Dear Sound Transit, As a member of Latvian Community, I am very concerned that we may loose our Center and Church due to Lynnwood Link Extension. Latvian Center has been the spiritual and Cultural home for me and my family for decades. Our three daughters attended Latvian language school there, danced folkdance and made friends for lifetime. Christenings, confirmations, weddings and funerals happen at our church. We, the senior citizens have our monthly recreational meetings at Latvian Hall. This month professional drama group from Latvia is presenting a play and the President of Latvia is due for a visit. We are better American citizens because of what we get by being members of this Community. Are we going to have to loose it? Sincerely, J. Jansevics



I-300-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the church and center to you and your family. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-300-001

From: liga Jefferds <liga@whidbey.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 7:06 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian Lutheran Church and Community Center

I-301-001

NO! NO! NO! We do not want this to be the end of the line for the Latvian Community Center.

This Lutheran Church and Community Center is the HEART OF LATVIANS in Seattle and its surrounding areas including Canada. The Lithuanian and Estonian communities also use this complex and have no other place to gather.

My husband and I travel two hours from Whidbey Island to attend many of the events held there and would feel a great loss if it were closed or moved. THE CENTER IS A SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, and EDUCATIONAL STRONGHOLD.

The Baltic culture is fragile due to the 50 year Soviet occupation that included massacres and displacements of Baltic people. The center has been and continues to be an ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN HEALING THE PEOPLE.

PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS COMMUNITY CENTER BE DISPLACED!

Peter and Liga Jefferds

I-301-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the church and center to the Baltic community in Seattle. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Amy Johnson <amy3treep@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 9:45 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Lynnwood park & Rail route

I-302-001

Please save the park. Lynnwood has had deficit in parks as old city councils chose not to fund/create them. I still remember sitting in a meeting where Lynnwood City Council Chose to take out a park & put in a housing development even though we, the people, had been promised that would stay a park.

Amy Johnson
17210 43rd Place West
Lynnwood, WA 98037

Sent from my iPad

I-302-001

Thank you for sharing your concerns over impacts to Scriber Creek Park and for describing the value of the park to the community. The Preferred Alternative crosses south of the park, and avoids the park impacts the Draft EIS identified for Alternative C1.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: STEVEN JOHNSON

ADDRESS: 1103 NE 187th St

CITY: SHORELINE STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98155

EMAIL ADDRESS: SJOHNSON@S

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-303-001

I VOTE FOR OPTION A, LEAVING
BUSSES TO HAIRDROP AREA, ADA PARKING
FOR EAST SIDE - SO WEST SIDE PARKING
AND FOR ALL VEHICLES WEST OF I-5.
EASTSIDE BUS UNLOAD & ADA PARKING



I-303-001

Your preference for Option 1 for the NE 185th Street Station is noted.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: SYLVIA KAPA-MAUERMAN

ADDRESS: 6518 115TH PK. SE

CITY: BELLEVUE STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98006

EMAIL ADDRESS: Sylvia.mauerman@gmail.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I have lived in this area since 1957 but was born in Riga, Latvia in 1943. Briefly lived in Ontario, Canada from 1948-APR. 1957. My parents (both Latvian) never let me forget my heritage. I speak Latvian and my daughters have kept up with the Latvian culture. They were both born here in Bellevue, wa, but have had the opportunity to go to Latvia along with their children. How can you possibly even think of taking away the Latvian Communities place of worship & cultural experiences. I want my children and grandchildren to NEVER give up their history. You really need to pursue other options. We may be a small group, but be assured that we are extremely united.



I-304-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-304-001

From: Zinta Kulits <kzinta@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 6:48 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Save the Latvian Church and Center in Seattle

To Whom it may concern:

I-305-001

My name is Zinta Kulits, nee Mekss , a refugee from Latvia during World War II. At that time I was less than 7 years old. My parents, father ,a Lutheran minister and mother professional musician ,did all they could to instill in us the love for our native language.We were sent to a Latvian grade school in a DP camp in Germany, our home language was Latvian, we also learned German and later learned English.There was and is respect for the language of our host countries.The same love for our language is instilled at the Latvian Center in Seattle, we attend church services there , sing our folk songs, young people practice folk dances.Children attend Saturday school where the third generation of Latvians in America are learning the language of their grandparents. I can not express the dread I feel if we should loose this precious place. Latvians are not the only ones who use the Latvian Center in Seattle, other Baltic people use it as a gathering place. PLEASE do not make us close the doors to so many people.There must be another way ,another route for the transit train without destroying this treasure.
Sincerely, Zinta Kulits

I-305-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Daina Kusins

ADDRESS: 30725 NE 178th Pl. P.O. Box 1676

CITY: Duvall STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98019

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-306-001

I would like to express my dismay at the possible elimination or at the very least drastic interruption of activities at our beloved Latvian Center. I am active in the Latvian Lutheran congregation, belong to the Ladies Committee, and regularly attend church services. I also participate in the sewing group, learning and teaching the making of Latvian folk costumes and many other ethnic items. Even more important, I also serve on the board of directors of the Latvian Association of the State of Washington. We are active in bringing musicians, theater groups, lecturers, and even the President of Latvia himself to our center. The center hosts many and varied functions; even an interruption in construction would severely impact our activities. The noise and vibration of trains going by would have a considerable negative effect on these activities.

I grew up in the Latvian community in Cleveland, Ohio where I was born. Later there was school, marriage, the deaths of my parents and physical inaccessibility to a Latvian community. When I moved here in 1993 and found the Latvian Center in Seattle, it was like coming home again.

Please review your plans and save our center and our activities. The future of the Latvian culture in Seattle, our children's involvement in their heritage, and the activities of untold numbers of people of Baltic heritage depend on it.

*Thank you, Daini Kusi
DAINA KUSINS*



I-306-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you, the region's Latvian community, and the larger Baltic community.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Krista Leesment <kleesment@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 9:44 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian Church and Community Center

Dear Sound Transit,

I-307-001 I am writing as a member of the Estonian community and in general the Seattle Baltic community to request that the Latvian Church and Community Center remain open during the planned Lynnwood Link Extension DEIS construction and to remain in its present location longer term. The community center serves as a focal point for key community gatherings, fund raisers and church services, so special to have a place for people from Estonia (Latvia and Lithuania) and with Estonian heritage to meet at when we are so far away from our tiny country overseas. The funds of our community are limited, thus trying to fund the relocation of a community gathering place would simply not be possible. We fear it would be a catalyst to our continued ability to gather and celebrate our cultures and religious services. We request that the construction planning take into consideration the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the property and the building.

Thank you – Krista Leesment

I-307-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Although construction activities will be adjacent to the church, Sound Transit will work closely with the church to maintain access, minimize parking loss, and reduce other potential construction disruptions to ongoing church and center activities. The primary construction in the area would be ongoing for about 1-2 years in the area, but major construction activities would be shorter duration. For temporary impacts such as truck traffic, detours, noise, dust, light and glare, Sound Transit proposes best management practices to avoid and minimize impacts in Sections 3.6, 4.5.7, 4.6.7, and 4.7.7. The construction area would also be fenced to protect public safety.

From: Danielle Loeding <loedings@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 4:10 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Segment A

As a resident of North Seattle, I wish to comment on the Segment A alternatives.

- I-308-001** | One of the perks of living in the Northwest is the overall beauty of our environment almost anywhere you travel in our region. This includes our section of the I-5 corridor winding past the 145th St. crossing, which captures a majestic view of Mt. Rainier while traveling southbound from 175th. As one example, I believe that any extended elevated system would be an unnecessary eyesore to the region. Besides the visual distraction as a driver, an elevated system needlessly adds clutter to the scenery we so enjoy on a daily basis.
- I-308-002** | Regarding station locations, the already heavily used overpasses of 130th and 145th would be better suited. It appears unnecessary to push traffic into a residential area for a 155th station when the others are clear choices with a predefined neighborhood identity for heavy traffic.
- I-308-003** | Further it seems more cost effective to limit the amount of elevated train as well as the construction of stops/stations. Since 130th and 145th will likely need to have changes made anyway, it makes sense to use those locations as stations instead of 155th.
- I-308-004** | Given these considerations, I urge you to choose A10 as your alternative. Maximizing the use of at-grade tracks and construction at 130th & 145th streets for new stations.

Thank you,
Danielle Loeding
13726 23rd Pl. NE
Seattle, WA 98125

I-308-001

Your comment about the potential visual quality impacts of the project is noted. The visual quality analysis is found in Section 4.5 of the Final EIS.

The Final EIS analysis concluded that an elevated guideway, NE 145th Street Station, and parking garage would not block views of Mount Rainier from I-5 southbound; see Table 4.5-1, Viewpoint 3.

I-308-002

Your preference for a light rail transit station at either NE 130th Street or NE 145th Street, and not one at NE 155th Street is noted. Construction and operation of the light rail transit stations would alter vehicular travel patterns on surrounding local arterial streets in all station areas. Chapter 3 of the Final EIS discuss impacts on the transportation network, and Section 3.6 lists potential mitigation measures to mitigate impacts that result from a new transit station.

I-308-003

Sound Transit selected Alternative A1, with some modifications, as part of the Preferred Alternative, which includes a station at NE 145th Street.

I-308-004

Thank you for your comment stating your preference for Alternative A10.



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Aina Katrina Lorbernis

ADDRESS: 11535 Corliss Ave N

CITY: Seattle STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98137

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-309-001

The Seattle Latvian Center = Church is the epicenter of Latvian society on the West Coast. A multitude of organizations, celebrations and community organized events. At this point in time, the Latvians are in a loose-loose situation. This center was customized for the needs of our community hand built & funded by its members. Unfortunately, they did such a good job at building it that it is irreplaceable. Impact will not be only environmental, but it will deal a blow to our Baltic community. Please be considerate before acting.



I-309-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

19 Sep 2013

Sound Transit

I-310-001

This commentary is in response to the Draft EIS for the Lynnwood Link Extension. The development of this extension as currently planned may cause loss of access or a complete loss of the Latvian Lutheran Church located at 11710 – 3rd Avenue NE on Seattle. Simply put, loss of access or otherwise negative impacts on the church will do great harm to the Baltic community across the Pacific Northwest.

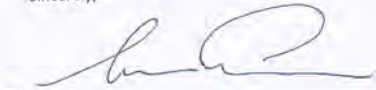
I was married in the church in 1991, and moved around continuously for the next 10 years due to my military career. I returned to the Pacific Northwest in 2000. While deployed overseas in support of combat operations in 2001 -2002 , I often thought of the rich social , cultural and spiritual life of the Seattle Baltic Community, and how it helped me stay positive and kept my faith strong.

Since my return , I have continued to be active in the Baltic community, attending church and being part of the rich multi-cultural group that uses the facility for spiritual and social events and the arts. I come from Northern Kitsap county to attend events at the Latvian center, as do many others. Individuals and families come from as far away as Vancouver British Columbia and Portland, Oregon to do the same. It is absolutely worth it to us to be part of this community. My children attended (and completed) Latvian Language School as part of their upbringing, and it has added tremendously to their bilingual skills and understanding of the world. They know attend events there on their own and consider their heritage and membership in the community a source of pride. I hope that they will have a place to offer their children the same opportunities. I'm sure many parents of Lithuanian and Estonian heritage wish the same for their children as well.

Importantly , this is not the first time this community has been asked to leave their premises, having been forced out before to make room for development in Wallingford in 1969. It took years to rebuild the facility, and generations to rebuild the connections across several communities. ANY loss of access, excessive noise or otherwise negative impacts due to construction or sound transit operations would have a very negative effect on this complex and rich fabric of people's lives. We can't rebuild this all again.

In closing, I am NOT against sound transit and light rail. However, a sustainable and acceptable development solution must be identified , and it must accommodate the Latvian Center and the Baltic Community.

Sincerely,



Arnie Lusis CDR USN (ret)

24665 Hillbend Lane NE Kingston, WA 98346 mob :360.621.0326 alusmuca@centurytel.net

I-310-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the edge of the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

Several sections in the Final EIS have been updated to address these changes: Section 2.5.1 describing the refined alternatives for Segment A; Section 4.1 describing the acquisition impacts; Section 4.4 describing impacts to community facilities and neighborhoods. In addition, Appendix F presents revised conceptual engineering plans for the refined Segment A alternatives; Appendix I-4.1 contains detailed maps and tables concerning acquisition, displacement, and relocation requirements for each Segment A alternative, and Appendix G has visual simulations.

As noted in Section 4.1, any acquisition of property, including portions of a property, would require fair compensation to the property owner in accordance with Sound Transit policy and federal and state law.

I-311-001

Thank you for describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Saul Matas <Saul.Matas@openet.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:06 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Concern over impact on Latvian Center

I-311-001

I support the Sound Transit Light Rail Line project. However, I have serious concerns as to the impact this project may have on the Latvian Center in Northgate. The cultural and social significance of this hall to the Baltic-American people in the Northwest is clear. However, I wish to point out the historical significance the center had in the struggle for Baltic independence during 1990-91. I was Treasurer of the Seattle Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community at that time, and the Latvian Center served as our command center for communications and political action in support of Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. The Soviets did their utmost to shut off communication, but a grass-roots network sprang up worldwide, and the Latvian Center served as Lithuania's bull horn in this part of the US.

The incredible events that took place in 1991 directly impacted many Northwest residents, including the families of some twenty exchange students who were studying in Lithuania's Capitol when the "Singing Revolution" was fought – and won. For these families, the Latvian Center was much more than a meeting hall. It was their candle in the darkness where they could find out about the unfolding events and, most importantly, the status of their children.

For those who may not be aware, here is a short synopsis of these events (from Wikipedia):

On March 15, the Soviet Union demanded revocation of the independence and began employing political and economic sanctions against Lithuania. Soviet military was used to seize a few public buildings, but violence was largely contained until January 1991. During the January Events, the Soviet authorities attempted to overthrow the elected government by sponsoring the so-called National Salvation Committee. The Soviets forcibly took over the Vilnius TV Tower, killing 14 unarmed civilians and injuring 700. During this assault the only means of contact to the outside world available was an amateur radio station set up in the Lithuanian Parliament building by Tadas Vyšniauskas whose call sign was LY2BAW. Their initial cries for help were received by an American amateur radio operator with the call sign N9RD in Indiana, USA. N9RD and later other radio operators from around the world were able to relay situational updates to relevant authorities until official State Department personnel were able to go on-air. Moscow failed to act further to crush the Lithuanian independence movement and the Lithuanian government continued to work.

During the national referendum on February 9, 1991, more than 90% of those who took part in the voting (76% of all eligible voters) voted in favor of an independent, democratic Lithuania. During the August Coup in Moscow, Soviet military troops took over several communications and other government facilities in Vilnius and other cities, but returned to their barracks when the coup failed. The Lithuanian government banned the Communist Party and ordered confiscation of its property. Following the failed coup, Lithuania received widespread international recognition and was **Admitted to the United Nations on September 17, 1991!!**

Those of us who lived through these times, who did what we could to get the word out to the world, will always remember the many meetings and press conferences we held at the Latvian Center, and all the Senators, Congressmen, the President of Lithuania, and numerous other dignitaries who spoke there. We had a place, our place, a safe place made possible by a country that embraced us as refugees and which never recognized the illegal occupation of the Baltics. I ask – I beg of you – to allow our place to remain.

.....
Saul Matas

.....
+1-206-618-7591 (M)

saul.matas@openet.us

skype: Saulius matas
.....

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From: dmiksys@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 1:47 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Cc: dmiksys@comcast.net
Subject: Light rail and the Latvian Center

I-312-001 I'm an active member of the Lithuanian community. Our organization, the Lithuanian-American Community, uses the Latvian Center many times during the year. Members and visitors come from the Seattle area, from other regions of America and even from Lithuania. The possible loss of the Center due to the coming rail line would make a huge cultural impact beyond words.

The Center is the focal point of the activities of Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians. It hums with weddings, baptisms, memorial services, concerts, fundraisers, dance groups, choirs, rummage sales, bazaars, Saturday school, parties and a host of other events. It functions to keep our cultures alive and vibrant.

We all consider it "home." Closing "our home" for construction and perhaps rendering it unusable after construction is complete would break our hearts.

I trust you will find ways to mitigate the impact of the rail line and keep the Center open during construction. Most importantly, leave us with a Center that has approximately the same amount of parking, a caretaker's house, and new access if necessary.

Respectfully,
Donna Miksys

I-312-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the Latvian Center. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, during construction and operation of the project.

Parking supply would be maintained. The caretaker's residence would need to be relocated, but Sound Transit will provide for the relocation.

From: Lelde Muehlenbachs <lelde@shaw.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 10:07 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian. Center- Seattle

I am shocked at the possible loss of the Seattle Latvian Center. It is a gorgeous establishment built by immigrants and children of immigrants who have suffered deeply if not physically then emotionally from the upheavals of Soviet oppression. A center like this has been a boon to cultural cohesion and solidarity.

I-313-001

The Center has bolstered religious, cultural needs as well as research in science and the humanities in conjunction with UW gem of a dept. in Baltic studies.

As a frequent visitors from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, I truly hope this meaningful piece of real estate survives urban development.

Thank you, Lelde and Karlis Muehlenbachs
11523 - 73 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T6G 0E2 -Lelde

I-313-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the results of additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Ieva Ohaks <ieva.ohaks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:18 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: The Latvian Center

September, 2013

I-314-001

I'm writing with reference to the Latvian Cultural Center at NE 117th Street and 3rd Ave NE in the Northgate area.

My name is Ieva Ohaks. I am a second-generation Latvian-American who also has Estonian heritage. Although I was not raised within the Latvian community, I have become interested and involved over the last seven years or so.

In that short period, this is how the Latvian Center has been a part of my own cultural life:

Folk Dance:

I dance with the Latvian Folk Dance troupe *Trejdeksnitis*. This past summer, *Trejdeksnitis* traveled to Latvia to participate in the Latvian National Song and Dance festival. It was an honor to represent Latvian-Americans in this powerful expression of cultural identity. Of course, we perform at events within our own Latvian community as well, and our troupe enriches the cultural life of the greater Seattle area by performing at venues such as the Nordic Heritage Museum, the Seattle Public Library, and Folklife Festival.

We rehearse every week in the Hall/Ballroom at the Latvian center. This is an exceptional space for dance: spacious and with a wonderful floor. On the handful of yearly occasions when the hall is not available, and we have to scrounge other locations, it is always a challenge to work with smaller spaces and problematic floors. I am always grateful to return to our own space.

Ethnic Costume Study:

In addition to dancing, I am a student of folk costume. Several members of the community get together at the Latvian Center to practice traditional and more contemporary embroidery techniques, and I have been privileged to draw on them as a resource in constructing my own folk costumes.

Collaboration with the University of Washington:

The Latvian Center is also integrally connected to the The University of Washington's Baltic Studies program. Students come from all over to study the history, culture, and unique politics of the Baltic nations. The University's graduate library hosts a unique collection of Baltic literature.

I-314-001

Thank you for describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

Several sections in the Final EIS have been updated to address these changes: Section 2.5.1 describes the Preferred Alternative and the refinements in other alternatives for Segment A; Section 4.1 describes the acquisition impacts; Section 4.4 describes impacts to community facilities and neighborhoods. In addition, Appendix F presents revised conceptual engineering plans for the refined Segment A alternatives; Appendix I-4.1 contains detailed maps and tables concerning acquisition, displacement, and relocation requirements for each Segment A alternative, and Appendix G has visual simulations.

As noted in Section 4.1, any acquisition of property, including a portion of a property, would require fair compensation to the property owner in accordance with Sound Transit policy and federal and state law.

I-314-001

This program is closely linked with the Latvian community, which, along with the other Baltic-American communities (Lithuanian and Estonian) have advocated, raised funds, and provided community support. Visiting scholars and professors frequently present the fruits of their labors at the Latvian Center. The Latvian Center hosts an annual fund raising event, created by the combined Baltic communities, to benefit the Baltic Studies program. The participation and support of our ethnic communities draws scholars to the program and connects the program to the broader culture of the region.

Not only does the Baltic Studies program draw typically college-age students to the Seattle Area, but also older adult community members attend classes as continuing education students. I myself attended Latvian language classes at the University, and I hope to study Estonian as well in the near future.

Pan-Baltic Communities:

The Latvian Center is the only dedicated cultural center in Washington State for any of the three Baltic communities. I have been a singer in the Estonian Choral group, performing for Estonian events such as the celebration of Estonia's independence every February. All three communities have been joining forces for commemorations and celebrations with increasing frequency in the past few years—for example an annual commemoration of mass deportations from all three nations during the most oppressive times of Soviet occupation.

What happens next?

I see that I have painted a picture of a vibrant, active ethnic community. But this is not the whole picture. We are also a community in a fragile point of transition. Our First generation and the older members of our Second generation are aging and are perhaps ready to pass the baton of community duties to the next generations. The young adult generation are just beginning to take on some of the projects that keep the center and the community going. The youngest children are just beginning Latvian School, where they will learn Latvian language and culture and form friendships that will sustain the community into their adulthood.

Also, the growing spirit of collaboration among Baltic-American communities is bringing an essential boost in energy and ideas.

However, if the use of the Latvian Center were disrupted, these positive shifts could easily lose momentum. All of us, with so many other demands on our time, may form other habits, take up other

I-314-001

hobbies, and all the dynamic potential of these developments could simply dissipate. Once cultural heritage fades, it is very difficult to revive.

In summation:

The Latvian Center is a precious resource in the cultural life of our region. Its facilities and its accessibility to the interconnected communities it serves are a vital part of our cultural life. We add regional and international prestige to the City of Seattle, to King County and to the State of Washington. So far, I have been pleased that Sound Transit has taken our concerns seriously and expressed respect and support. Please continue that trend, turn the words into action, and help us keep our center functioning during and beyond the disruptions which the Light Rail project will impose.

Sincerely,

Ieva Ohaks

17810 3rd Ave NE

Shoreline, WA, 98155

206-362-9252

ieva.ohaks@gmail.com



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Aleksa Overtby
 ADDRESS: 123 195th Pl SW
 CITY: Bothell STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98012
 EMAIL ADDRESS: aleksaro@comcast.net
 Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

How I have used the Latvian Center over my lifetime:

- * Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage in this church
- * Not only did my parents meet through the dance group, but all 4 children in my family have danced with and traveled internationally with this group. To this day, the Latvian dance group remains the main draw for Latvian youth and remains the glue that keeps us all involved and a living community.
- * How can the language survive if the children don't come to Latvian school? We have never asked to have special allowances or to have a "press 3 for Latvian" accomodation. We are all not only LV community members, but also many are successful members who have given a great deal to our American society.
- * I have lived parrallel lives and this center is my home. I cannot imagine my son not having the same home for his lifetime.

I-315-001



I-315-001

Thank you for describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you, the region's Latvian community, and the larger Baltic community.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Nathan Overby

ADDRESS: 123 195th Pl SW

CITY: Bothell STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98012

EMAIL ADDRESS: supernate5000@hotmail.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

Growing up with no feeling of belonging, community, or culture, then having married a Latvian American I feel fortunate to have become involved in this one-of-a-kind of community. There is no other place like it in all of the Northwest and to displace this huge, vital hub of not only Latvian Americans, but Estonian Americans, and Lithuanian Americans would endanger our culture which we have not assurance would survive. We need our home, we have worked for it, maintained it, and deserve to pass it onto our children.

I-316-001



I-316-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you and your family.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Dear Sound Transit Board members,

Hello. I am very excited for the light rail system and the ability to walk to a light rail station from my house. I do have legitimate concerns over the Shoreline City Council's recommendation for the light rail station and parking structure to be placed at 145th St. (SR-523) and I-5. The Shoreline City Council is not discussing the reality of the conditions of traffic on 145th Street, or the 130th/155th St. options with WSDOT, Sound Transit, or the community.

I-317-001

The intersection where it would be placed (145th St. NE and I-5) is already a highly congested area. According to WSDOT, the intersection and the stretch of NE 145th St. surrounding it is already, in their words, over-capacity. Adding another destination focal point can only cause more congestion.

There are a couple of contributing factors to this, including, but not limited to: * It is the only complete set of I-5 on and off-ramps between Northgate and 175th St. NE. * There is minimal queuing area for the cars to enter the I-5 on-ramps. Which creates backups on 145th St. east and west of the intersection and in-between on the overpass bridge. This, in turn, creates backups on the I-5 off-ramps. * It is a main arterial to I-5, that receives the bulk auto traffic not only from Shoreline neighborhoods, but also from Haller Lake, Greenwood, Aurora, Lake City, Bothell, Woodinville, Pinehurst, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and east-side traffic. * According to WSDOT, traffic increased 11-15% on NE 145th St./SR-523 after the 520 bridge was tolled and people started using it as the connector around the north-side of the lake to I-5.

Currently, 145th St. east and west of the I-5 intersection during morning and evening rush-hour has two-lane 1/4 to 1/2 mile backups of cars waiting to go northbound and southbound onto I-5. One of the major problems is there is no good way to mitigate the issues of a light rail station on 145th. Some of the ideas floated are: * Add complete sets of off and on-ramps at 130th and 155th St, to reduce the influx of vehicles that use 145th. St solely for the purpose of I-5 access. (which WSDOT says it will not do) * Acquire hundreds of folks properties to widen the 145th arterial, in some instances this would place a state highway within feet of Seattle and Shoreline folks' front doors, or directly in the path of current homes. There is also current infrastructure and or protected spaces in the immediate vicinity, such as a pumping station, Thornton Creek, and the Jackson Park Golf Course. * Add direct on and off-ramps to the station and parking structures from I-5.

When I asked the Shoreline City Council how they plan to address this, or if they have worked with WSDOT to address these concerns, I receive blank stares and replies along the lines of "WSDOT will mitigate any issues". When I asked WSDOT if they had an official position, they said they had not released one but would be more than happy to talk to Sound Transit about the facts. I encourage you to speak to the WSDOT planners and employees who control this area.

I-317-002

I have been to multiple Ridgecrest community meetings, and to the majority of the folks in the effected neighborhoods it makes much more sense to have the proposed two stations at 130th St. and 155th St. Some contributing factors supporting this are: * The already over-capacity and congested NE 145th St. arterial. * 130th is an arterial from Greenwood/99 to Lake City, but currently does not have the congested traffic that 145th St. does. * 155th is an arterial from Greenwood (via turning into Westminster Way, which turns into Greenwood), Aurora/99, to 15th Ave. NE * The more stations a mass-transit system has, the more people will have access to it, and more people will use it. The two stations, 130th and 155th St. would server a greater amount of citizens and provide access to more light-rail riders. * Two stations will split the traffic, and if applicable, the parking between two stations. * It will allow people to access the stations from 130th (125th&Roosevelt&130th), 145th, and 155th (All of which are East/West arterials). * 155th St. and 130th St. both have designated bike lines. 145th Street does not have a bike line, and is not safe for bicycle traffic. * 155th St. and 130th St. both have newer accessible sidewalks. The 145th St. and I-5 intersection is not very walkable, nor accessible. The sidewalks, where they exist, are not accessible. * It creates easy light-rail access not only for the Ridgecrest and Parkwood neighborhoods, but also for Lake City, Pinehurst, Bitter Lake, Haller

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I-317-001

Your concerns about traffic congestion at NE 145th Street and I-5 are noted. In the Final EIS, Sound Transit proposes mitigation to address impacts from the light rail project along NE 145th Street, see Table 3-27 in Chapter 3, Transportation.

I-317-002

Your preference for stations at NE 130th and NE 155th Streets is noted.

The Preferred Alternative evaluated in the Final EIS includes stations at NE 145th and NE 185th Streets. Ridership analysis shows that there would not be large differences in ridership among the alternatives, despite the different station locations; see Section 3.2.2 in the Final EIS for this discussion.

Chapter 3 has further detail for bike/pedestrian ridership and traffic in general. Chapter 2 describes the sidewalk, bike, and other access improvements associated with the Preferred Alternative.

I-317-002

Lake, Olympic Hills, and Broadview. * This will free up the East/West arterials for the crosstown bus routes to feed the stations. * Less, if any at all property and homes would need to be acquired. The property around the proposed 130th St. and 155th St. stations are owned by the municipalities.

If you can, please visit and observe the congested NE 145th St. and I-5 intersection during morning or even rush hour. You will see how wanting to place a light rail station at 145th St. is very troubling.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan Basile
Shoreline, WA 98155

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From: Angela Petersons <ange.petersons@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 3:49 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Draft DEIS Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

I-318-001 I am writing today to express my thoughts, comments and concerns over the planned light rail extension to Lynnwood. Specifically in regards to how the project is going to impact the Latvian Lutheran Evangelical Church and Community Center located at 11710 3rd Avenue NE, Seattle 98125.

The proposed plans for the rail extension to Lynnwood call to highly impact the Latvian Community Center - and in one plan, to completely get rid of the center.

I am not of Latvian descent, but my husband is Latvian and I married in to this wonderful community. My husband is the second generation of his family to be born in the United States. His grandparents fled Latvia during World War Two when the Soviet Russia invaded Latvia. His grandparents, after years of moving from place to place in search of a new home, ended up Seattle. They found a new home in Seattle and were also able to find a community of Latvians that ended up there as well. In this new home, they created a community that was strong and proud of their displaced heritage.

They created a community center that was taken away by eminent domain in Wallingford and ended up in their current location. They built this Center from the ground up and it is a hub of Latvian and Baltic activity that thrives on their Latvian culture and community.

The Draft DEIS mentions that this facility is merely a church, but I want to raise attention that it is so much more than that. Over the years that I have known and been married to my Latvian husband, I have been to numerous events at the Center - not only Church events - and am aware of the many activities that this facility serves. As you are now aware from the outcry of the Latvian community, the Center serves as a Latvian Language school, as the facility that holds practices and performance space for the Latvian Folkdance Group and Latvian choirs, a hall for Latvian events and parties, a polling place for Latvian (and Baltic) elections, a Church serving all Baltic communities, as well as a center for the cultural preservation of this strong community.

I am Hawaiian. And one of the things that drew my husband and I together from the start was a love and respect for our cultures. We are both strongly involved in our communities and have gained a strong respect for each other's cultures. I am due to have a girl in October and would love more than anything for her to learn both of her parent's cultures. This Center is vital in allowing that to happen. Just as my husband did, I would expect my daughter and other future children to attend the Latvian School to learn about her ancestors and gain a deeper understanding of her culture.

1

I-318-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-318-001

Being a City of Seattle employee in the Cultural Programs office at Seattle Center, I understand how important it is to this great City of Seattle to preserve and promote all of the cultures and heritage that this City represents. We are lucky as residents of Seattle that our Mayor strongly promotes cultural preservation and cultural pride. Taking this facility away would not prove that this is true for the Latvian Community and it would be a sore disappointment to this City.

This Latvian Center is an important part of the Latvian Community and to the City of Seattle as a whole. There is no value that you can put on the Center except to say that it is a priceless piece of Latvian and Seattle history.

Please reconsider your plans and I am hoping that any impact made to the Center will have little effect on this community and all of the activities that take place there. This Center is the heart of this community - let's not take away their hearts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Angela Petersons

From: linda beinikis <lbeinikis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 1:07 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Draft EIS comments

September 20, 2013

Sound Transit
Draft EIS comments

Fifteen years ago my husband and I moved to Seattle and became active members of the Latvian community. The Latvian Center at 11710 3rd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125 is known across the country and the world as a gathering point for Latvians in the greater Seattle area. We knew that we would be welcomed into the community as soon as we stepped foot through those doors.

In those early days, we joined the Seattle Latvian Church, but we quickly began supporting many more activities in the Center. The Latvian School, housed in the Center, taught my daughters about their Latvian heritage and, by extension, the heritage of their Baltic neighbors. My oldest graduated from the school earlier this year, while the younger one joyfully spends Saturdays at the Center with her peers. Trejdeksnitis folk dance performances are particular draws and our daughters are waiting for the days they are old enough to dance with the group. The candlelight service and following Christmas pageant every December is one of the biggest draws for the cross-generational community. Children perform songs during the church service and again in the pageant. The wonder and joy in the eyes of the children when Santa comes ho-ho-ho-ing into the main hall is something that lights up everyone's spirit.

I-319-001 The proposed extension and alignment onto the Center property of the Sound Transit Link Light Rail and the physical disruption to the property will cause irreparable damage to the communities and organizations using the property and unfortunately, will discourage new members from joining the communities due to the uncertain future that this situation presents. The Baltic communities that call this property home are fragile communities that can not afford this sort of disruption.

Link Light Rail is a project that should support the communities of Seattle, not threaten their existence.

Sincerely,
Linda Beinikis

I-319-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

Several sections in the Final EIS have been updated to address these changes: Section 2.5.1 describes the Preferred Alternative and the refinements in other alternatives for Segment A; Section 4.1 describes the acquisition impacts; Section 4.4 describes impacts to community facilities and neighborhoods. In addition, Appendix F presents revised conceptual engineering plans for the refined Segment A alternatives; Appendix I-4.1 contains detailed maps and tables concerning acquisition, displacement, and relocation requirements for each Segment A alternative, and Appendix G has visual simulations.

As noted in Section 4.1, any acquisition of property, including a portion of a property, would require fair compensation to the property owner in accordance with Sound Transit policy and federal and state law.

From: olga G <atvasara@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 2:42 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Light Rail

Draft EIS Comments
Lauren Swift

I-320-001 We are members of the Latvian community recently relocated to Seattle and are extremely concerned that the Lynnwood Link Extension will destroy the long established Latvian Cultural Center and Church in Seattle. While living elsewhere, over a time period of at least 40 years, we often drove to the Latvian Cultural Center to enjoy and take part in the various activities it had to offer. The location near I-5 is ideal for anybody driving from a different city, therefore, in our opinion, relocation is out of the question.

Please consider the interests of a large Latvian community and save the existing Latvian Cultural Center and Church by:

1. Ensuring uninterrupted access
2. Building the Light Rail on ground level with a wall separating the Latvian Cultural Center from the Light Rail trains (or better still - put it underground)
3. Making permanent access and parking possible (maybe at the end of 20th St. - would mean purchasing the last house on the street for a driveway)
4. Rebuilding the Latvian Cultural Center's caretaker's house

Yours truly,
Juris Beitlers & Olga Grikis

I-320-001

The Preferred Alternative evaluated in the Final EIS includes several of your design suggestions, except for the underground option. Such an option would not avoid the displacement, and would not connect effectively to the guideway sections to the south where an elevated alignment is the least impacting choice. The Preferred Alternative redesigns the church access street to the south, replaces a city street, which allows for replacement of lost parking, and includes land that could accommodate a relocated caretaker residence. Chapter 2 of the Final EIS describes the Preferred Alternative.

Draft EIS Comment Form Page 1 of 2

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Velta and Andris Benson
 ADDRESS: 3246-72nd Place S.E.
 CITY: Mercer Island STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98040-3338
 EMAIL ADDRESS: veltab@comcast.net
 Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-321-001

The Seattle Latvian Community Center and Church have been a source of cultural promotion of the Baltic countries and Latvia and its traditions and community specifically over the last sixty and more years since the arrival of their displaced persons in the fifties. Sharing with the greater Seattle community, the West Coast and USA in general as well as visitations from other countries, based out of this facility, we have participated and shared our culture at the Goodwill Games, with Latvian West Coast Song Festivals which took place at the Seattle Opera House, The Sheraton and other local hotels for thousands of attendees; participation in Folklife for over 20 years now with the folk dance Group Trejdeksnitis, and young women's singing ensemble Sigulda, as well as Bumpershoot with Latvian artists participating, not to mention parades and supporting the University of Washington's Scandinavian Department, Baltic Studies Program with annual traditional "kekatas" evenings and other fund raising efforts in form of auction and donations, dance song and other contributions; and many art and cultural exhibits at the Nordic Heritage Museum, and Tacoma's art exhibitions of local culture with sewing, weaving crafts and art presentations. Governor Gary Lock acknowledged these contributions to an exceptional person of the local Latvian community, Mrs. Skaidrite Abolins with special award for her contributions to our state; several other local Latvians were invited and participated with Latvian weaving and other traditional demonstrations in Washington DC during the 200 year bicentennial activities there.

For several years now, the Latvian dance group Trejdeksnitis also participates in the annual culture awareness events at the Seattle Art Museum, as did our younger generation in years past at the Seattle Museum of History and Industry during their annual Christmas holiday cultural exhibitions; and local young athletics oriented latvians participated in Olympic trials in Shoreline. Having settled near the previous Latvian Community Center which at that time was near Lincoln High School, the Latvian students at Lincoln shared their culture through the then active International Club.



I-321-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you, the region's Latvian community, and the larger Baltic community.

Draft EIS Comment Form Page 2 of 2

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Velta and Andris Benson
 ADDRESS: 3246-72nd Place S.E.
 CITY: Mercer Island STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98040-3338
 EMAIL ADDRESS: velta b @ comcast.net
 Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-321-001

Currently the Seattle Latvian Community Center and Church is the center for visits from Latvian presidents. The current President Andris Berzins is visiting September 22, 2013 and past President Valdis Zatlers who also was guest speaker at the Seattle World Affairs Council. Art exhibits at the Latvian Community Center have been open to the public, as well as visitations from Latvia by actors, musical artists with voice and instruments and other exchange programs between the USA and Latvia. The national American Latvian Association meetings have been held in Seattle representing issues pertaining to Latvians in Latvia as well as outside Latvia, giving both opportunities to learn about their respective cultures and share the best of each, providing the displaced persons outside of Latvia and as well as Lithuania and Estonia and their families a closeness to their heritage and roots so they can be more fulfilled citizens of this country.

I-321-002

The community of Seattle will lose a lot of these contributions for the mere reason that such exciting activities need a central known source and place to practice, gather for inspiration, and learning and coordination of same. Currently, the Latvian Holiday Bazaar each November as well as the Rummage Sale in the spring have been an expected and well anticipated and received activity for the local Seattle community in general. A very sad result of displacement of this community will be the loss of its offerings to the elder population and the families who have bought homes and made their lives to enable their connection and participation to this part of their heritage. The most loyal and now oldest member lives in her home two blocks away from the center which she and her husband purchased when the Center was built in 1972. She would rarely be able to partake of this cherished part of her life to which she has given so much if the current facility would have to be removed or displaced.

Thank you for providing us the opportunities to state our concerns and describe the contributions and sacrifices this community has made to enable this facility to be built and develop in such a fruitful part of this City and State.



I-321-002

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

From: Sasha P <epsasha@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 10:47 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Public Comment - Lynnwood Link Extension & Latvian Church & Center

Dear Sound Transit:

I would like to this opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Lynnwood Link Extension.

I-322-001

As the DEIS points out, the extension may adversely affect the Latvian Church and Center (LCC). I encourage you to do everything possible to minimize the impact on the LCC.

I am Latvian and part of much larger Latvian diaspora. After World War II, my parents along with 40,000 other Latvians immigrated to the United States with the help of the U.S. government and various social service and religious organizations.

Many of those Latvians settled in Seattle and banded together to built the Latvian Church and Community Center. Since then, the LCC has been the nexus for Latvian social events, school, choirs, dance groups, theater troupes, veterans' groups, and political organizations.

I am now parent with two children, 4 and 6, who has enrolled them in the Seattle Latvian School. Without the LCC, my children and I will loose a valuable resource to learn the Latvian language; culture, traditions and most importantly build enduring ties with other Latvians.

The Lynnwood Link will not only affect the Latvian School but it will also adversely affect other local and regional groups that rely on the LCC which include:

- LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
- LATVIAN ARCHIVES & LIBRARY
- WEST COAST LATVIAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER
- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BALTIC STUDIES PROGRAM
- TREJDEKSNĪTIS, LATVIAN FOLK DANCING GROUP
- SEATTLE LATVIAN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
- LATVIAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER
- LOCAL ESTONIAN AND LITHUANIAN COMMUNITIES

1

I-322-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

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As noted in Section 4.1, any acquisition of property, including a portion of a property, would require fair compensation to the property owner in accordance with Sound Transit policy and federal and state law.

I-322-001 | As you draft the final environmental impact statement, I encourage you to consider the impact of the Lynwood Link on an important local and regional cultural center. It is unacceptable to close the LCC for any length of time. Doing so would negatively adversely impact the local, regional and even the global Latvian community.

Sincerely,

Eriks Sasha Paegle

8748 25th PL NE

Seattle, WA 98115

M: +1 206 390 5513



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Mārcis Rācenis

ADDRESS: 1590 Lumley Ave

CITY: Mukilteo STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98275

EMAIL ADDRESS: marcis189@gmail.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-323-001

As a twenty-four year old young man, the MOST important part of my social and cultural life revolves around the Latvian center. I arrived in Seattle two years ago fresh out of college and was immediately taken in by the Latvian dance group Trojpasmitis. Soon after, I started coming to choir, church, teaching in the Sunday school for young children to pass on this wonderful culture and language and much, much more! Without exaggeration I come to the Latvian center on average nearly twice per week. The center, even for a young twenty-four year old like myself, along with many other young people like me is an irreplaceably important place

- Mārcis Rācenis -



I-323-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: ANDREJS RAIZE

ADDRESS: 2715 159TH ST CT E

CITY: TACOMA STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98445

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-324-001

Latvian Cultural Center is very important for us. Please, keep it undamaged.

*Sincerely
Andrejs Raize
September 18/2013*



I-324-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: LAIMA A. RAIZE

ADDRESS: 2715 159TH ST CT E

CITY: TACOMA STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98445

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-325-001

Latvian Cultural Center is very important for us. Please, keep it undamaged.

Sincerely,
Laima A. Raize
09-18-2013



I-325-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Evan Randa

ADDRESS: 1741 NE 165th St

CITY: Seattle STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98125

EMAIL ADDRESS: evanranda@yahoo.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-326-001

Me and my family have been participating in this community for a good 40+ years. In that ^{time} the ~~com~~ community as a whole has grown closer together. There is nothing like this to be found in the Pacific Northwest or the West Coast for that matter.



I-326-001

Thank you for your comments describing the cultural importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you and the region's Latvian community.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: LILIA SANKALIS

ADDRESS: 10408 39th Ave SW

CITY: Seattle STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98146-1124

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I have been a member of the Seattle Latvian Community for 50 years. My whole family donated money and actively helped to build the center for the Latvians but their previous one to City of Seattle.

I-327-001

While I agree we need a relief for the traffic congestion, I am very, very saddened about the lines impact on our property - church & community hall. It has been ^{like} my second home, my social & cultural center. I dread losing it. Without it (I am a senior citizen now) I would have no social life and miss my ^{of typical happenings} ~~chance to~~ which are very very important to me. Television can't replace ~~the~~ things. I beg you to consider find another selection. Sincerely, Lilia Sankalis.

P.S. The Centers location is ideal - I-5 for mostly in my case - Highway 99



I-327-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: Laura Schott

ADDRESS: 2343 E Richmond Avenue

CITY: Fresno STATE: CA ZIP CODE: 93720

EMAIL ADDRESS: LauraKschotte@yahoo.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I am writing to state that eliminating the Seattle Latvian Church and Center is completely unacceptable. This center has played a critical role in my family's history and is an important component of our future and heritage as well. My grandpa helped build the center, my parents and other relatives were married there, my 3 siblings and I went to school there, were confirmed in the church and attended over a hundred functions and gatherings throughout my childhood and college years. While I may no longer live in WA, the times I do return I will still find myself at the center and have looked forward to bringing my kids there as they get older. Eliminating this critical and historic gathering place would be a true tragedy.

Sincerely, Rama Bennett



I-328-001

Thank you for your comments describing the importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-328-001

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: James & Barbara Sinclair

ADDRESS: 17628 Talbot Road

CITY: Edmonds STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98026

EMAIL ADDRESS: bsinclair39@comcast.net

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

I-329-001

We are hopeful the extended Sound Transit will not affect the Latvian Church. Besides being a place to renew ones spirit they host many Baltic functions - both local and international. Weddings, baptisms and family events are enjoyed. A wide variety of ages are active in the church. Please consider a raised track. Keep the Church as is-please.



I-329-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

TO: Sound Transit DEIS
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104
ATTN: c/o Lauren Swift

FROM: Elaine Smith
5630 200TH ST. SW #B305
Lynnwood, WA
98036-6262

September 13, 2013

Re: Draft EIS

Dear Sound Transit Planners
c/o Lauren Swift,

Having weighed all the options C1, C2, and C3 very very carefully, I want you to know that I evaluate that Option C3 for siting is the only option that makes sense for our community and for the South Snohomish region.

To try to site the route and stations along 52nd Ave W. (options C1 and C2) would have the effect of destabilizing and brutally "big city industrializing" of our fragile-enough neighborhoods, trying so hard to build up our sense of neighborhood closeness and cohesion here in Lynnwood. We don't need trains, (a station and an eventual maintenance facility) running through the delicate eco-system and nearby streets of what we all enjoy as Scriber Lake's legally protected wetlands park) either.

Option C3 is different in a positive way. It makes sense for consolidating and preserving a transit corridor, we are already used to for Lynnwood. I believe it would instead also be the best revenue-producing alternative for Lynnwood businesses, as many riders would jump at the chance to find the safe harbor of hotels, restaurants, and retail options so close to their train journey's end.

Please choose Option C3 as the sole alternative that is best thought-out as benefitting riders, business, and residents of South Snohomish County. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elaine Smith
Elaine Smith

I-330-001

Your preference for Alternative C3 is noted. The Preferred Alternative evaluated in the Final EIS includes a modified Alternative C3. Chapter 2 in the Final EIS describes the Preferred Alternative.

I-330-001

From: Ken Gorshkow <kengorshkow@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 6:36 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian Church and Hall

Dear Sound Transit Officials:

I-331-001 We have heard that the Latvian Church/Hall is in jeopardy of being demolished in favor of rapid transit using this corridor to pass from Seattle to Lynnwood.

This beautiful structure serves not only the Latvian community but also the Estonian community, which is quite small in Seattle, not large enough to support a church and hall of its own.

Estonians of Seattle are dependent upon the church and hall for their religious services, civic programs and festive events. It would be a very sad day if the church/hall is demolished to allow Sound transit to travel along I-5.

With today's prices it would be impossible for the Latvian community to replace this outstanding and most useful building. Both Latvians and Estonians would be robbed of the many events that are held there throughout the year.

Please find an alternate route for Sound transit rather than destroying the possibility of Latvians and Estonians coming together for church services, civic and social events.

Sincerely,

Ruth A. St.Hilaire
(of the Estonian Community)
Seattle WA
206-282-2812

I-331-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Caitlin Tierney <ctierney480@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 11:43 AM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Save the Latvian Lutheran Church

Hello,

I-332-001

I am writing as an alumnus of University of Washington's Scandinavian Studies department. I graduated cum laude in 2011 and my senior thesis was a way to test Latvian language acquisition. UW has close ties to Latvia and its culture; the UW Chorale has even traveled there twice: once to perform for the president of Latvia and then to participate in the Song and Dance Festival in Riga (an *inexplicably* powerful cultural event that brings non-Latvians like me and my fellow students to tears).

To complete my program, I had to learn Latvian language, culture, and history. The Latvian Lutheran Church was tantamount to my successful completion of the degree.

I have taken part in events at the Church since 2007: events including the St. Martin's Day festival, the dance group (which recently traveled to Latvia's Song and Dance Festival in Riga), and other local events at the Latvian Lutheran Church.

Seattle would not be the same without this Church. It is the only one of its kind and people travel from all over Western Washington to connect with their culture there. This is a way for people who are far away from their family's country to connect and strengthen their social bonds.

I believe that you can find a way to complete the necessary business for Sound Transit without harming this pocket of Latvian culture.

Thank you for your consideration.

--
Caitlin Tierney
UW Class of '11

I-332-001

Thank you for your comments describing the importance of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church to you.

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: Anne T. Totoraitis <annetoto@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 8:01 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Cc: Constantine, Dow
Subject: Sound Transit's impact on the Latvian Center

Dear Sound Transit,

I-333-001 I am a member of the Seattle Lithuanian-American Community. The Latvian Center is the venue for most of our events from Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 16, to the Commemoration of the Day of Deportation in June, to the one of the most important celebrations for Lithuanians, **Kūčios** (Christmas Eve), and I am concerned that the proposed light rail line may have very severe impact on the Center.

We have held many benefits at the Latvian Center as well. In fact, you should attend the St. Martin's Day festival on Oct. 26 at the Latvian Center to witness one of our events in person! It's a fundraiser for the Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington - \$25 per person and includes dinner. There's a silent auction too. It starts at 6 p.m.

I am asking that you please keep at-grade access (not the elevated option) to the Latvian Center open during construction and to minimize the impacts during construction and after (dust, noise, vibration, light, etc.) so they don't hamper our events.

After construction is complete, please do not take the property and relocate the Latvian Center. Instead, find ways to keep it in its current location, and offer adequate parking and access.

thank you,
Anne Totoraitis

I-333-001

Thank you for your comments about the events held at the Latvian Center. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

Several sections in the Final EIS have been updated to address these changes: Section 2.5.1 describes the Preferred Alternative and the refinements in other alternatives for Segment A; Section 4.1 describes the acquisition impacts; Section 4.4 describes impacts to community facilities and neighborhoods. In addition, Appendix F presents revised conceptual engineering plans for the refined Segment A alternatives; Appendix I-4.1 contains detailed maps and tables concerning acquisition, displacement, and relocation requirements for each Segment A alternative, and Appendix G has visual simulations.

As noted in Section 4.1, any acquisition of property, including a portion of a property, would require fair compensation to the property owner in accordance with Sound Transit policy and federal and state law.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: EGILS VRSNIERS

ADDRESS: 5810 COWEN PL NE APT. 211

CITY: SEATTLE STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98105

EMAIL ADDRESS: lat_aguilas@yahoo.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-334-001

IF OUR LATVIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IS LOST TO THE LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION IT WOULD BE A SEVERE HARDSHIP FOR ME AS I WOULD BE UNABLE TO GET AROUND AS MUCH AS I GET OLDER.

ALSO RELOCATING AND/OR REBUILDING A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER AND CHURCH WOULD BE A TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT PROJECT FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, GIVEN THE AGING NATURE OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Egils Vrsniers



I-334-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

From: John Westfall <westfallj@pioneer.net>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 7:39 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: DEIS Comments

Dear Lynnwood Link:

I-335-001 | I wish to voice my support for Segment B2A, that provides a stop at 220th St SW in Mountlake Terrace.

Anticipating area population increases and existing large employers and service-providers in the 220th St SW corridor of Mountlake Terrace leading to Edmonds, this stop will be an important connection to Community Transit to make connection to Swedish Hospital Edmonds, Premera/Blue Cross, businesses and many multi-residential apartments in the area.

I-335-002 | Currently, Melody Hill Elementary has been demolished and there is land available through Edmonds School District on the west side of I5, south of 220th.
Thanks,
John Westfall, Brier, WA

I-335-001

Thank you for stating your preference for Alternative B2A with a proposed light rail transit station at 220th Street SW.

I-335-002

Sound Transit learned of the demolition of the Melody Hill Elementary School building owned by the Edmonds School District after the publication of the Draft EIS. The Final EIS has been revised to accommodate this change. A station at 220th Street SW utilizing this property is evaluated as an optional station location for the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS.

Lynnwood Link Extension

Summer 2013



Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: IEVA O DONALD YOUNG

ADDRESS: 13802 2nd AVE SW

CITY: Norwood Park STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98166

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please sign me up for project email updates

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Comments

I-336-001

For the past 41 years we have been coming to the Latvian Center to participate, enjoy, share with other Latvians at our center and church.

The Seattle Latvian Folk Dance Group practice weekly and perform several times a year for their own fulfillment and enjoyment for this community. Without the center this would be hard to do.

Latvian Americans have strong ethnic ties to each other, and need access to the center for cultural events, for the nourishment of our souls.

Ieva Young
15 Sept. 2013



I-336-001

Thank you for your comments about the Latvian Center. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

Draft EIS Comment Form

Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

NAME: ANDRIS and HELENA ZIEMA

ADDRESS: 16805 NE 12th Street

CITY: BELLEVUE STATE: WA ZIP CODE: 98008

EMAIL ADDRESS: hziema@msn.com

Please sign me up for project email updates

Sound Transit wants to hear from you. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis. The extended public comment period ends September 23, 2013. All comments received or postmarked by this date will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Comments

Dear Sirs,

Current plan of building Lynnwood link through the Latvian Church/Center is absolutely unacceptable. The Latvian Church/Center is very important venue for our family and for all Washington + Canadian Latvian Society.

Please consider other alternatives which will not affect our center.

Sincerely: Andris Zieme 09/20/2013
 Helena Zieme 09/20/2013



I-337-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

I-337-001

From: thehelix@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 3:46 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Sound Transit Link impacting the Seattle Latvian Center

September 17, 2013

Subject: Lynnwood Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Impact to the Seattle Latvian Church and Center at 11710 3rd Ave N.E, Seattle, WA 98125

Dear Sound Transit Board,

I-338-001

Today I am writing to share my concern about the future of the Latvian Church and Community Center.

I attended the Latvian school at this center and graduated in 1980, I can still speak, read and write in Latvian. In the class room area of this center there are photos on display, still today, of students with high scores on exams administered nationally by the American Latvian Association. I managed to get an honorable mention and thus a photo of me is up on the wall with the others for my 7 year old daughter to see. Last Saturday my daughter, started her 4th year in this school in the very same building. I hope that when my daughter gets older she will join the dance group Trejdeksnitis and eventually travel to Latvia to participate in a song festival as others did earlier this year.

Latvian families like my parents came to America after World War II to make a better life for their families. Even while in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany after the war they organized schools, theater troupes, music ensembles etc. The sense of community and education was strong and as you have read elsewhere the Northgate location is not this community's first residence. The generation that came to America had an irrepressible goal, to pass their culture and language to their children, thus they built a 2nd church and community center. As such communities assimilate over generations this singular focus gets diluted and the challenges of financing, designing and building a 3rd community center becomes insurmountable. If we loose access and have to relocate this physical anchor which sustains our regions Baltic communities will disappear. The language and culture continues because we have a physical location to carry on.

Please help the Latvian Church and Community Center stay whole and unaltered in its present location.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eriks Rauda

1

I-338-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the Latvian Church to you and the local Latvian community. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.

10916 North Park Ave N
Seattle, Wa. 98133

From: Liz Rekevics <lizr@flyingcroc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 1:23 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Latvian Community Center and Church

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Liz Rekevics (Elizabete Alma Astra Rekevics in full), and I'm Latvian.

My parents immigrated to the US during WWII and made their home here in Seattle where I was born and raised. The Latvian Center, exists and was built for my generation and those to come. I attended Latvian school there, numerous church/community events, was confirmed there – and bid my grandparents and both my parents farewell at the Latvian house.

I-339-001 I currently see a full capacity school, an active church community, frequent use by all age groups and Baltic groups. Compared to any other stop along your path to Lynwood, I don't see any other community so drastically affected by your plans. You wouldn't dare blast through any one of the many silly chain restaurants at Northgate, why is a hub of an entire community any less valuable? How many other community centers are you considering dissolving along the way?

Relocation, not an option. Families have intentionally moved to the area to be closer to our center. This is where we continue our existence. We bought the land, we should get to use it.

You've seen our access point – it's not significant, but does the trick. The VERY least you could do is to allow us to KEEP an access point. You will already change our entire experience with noise, view etc – but let us GET WHERE WE NEED TO BE! My suggestion is to provide an alternate access point off of 5th. There are a number of homes which I'm sure will be running for the hills the moment they realize the train is coming through their back yard. I'm sure there are options available. But blocking us out, or taking it away is simply NOT AN OPTION.

Please consider your path wisely. I understand the need for light rail, but wrecking an entire community that has worked so long and hard to create such an important place, is not necessary. This is far more than a community center. This is a home base to so many who have been uprooted many times.

Thank you

Liz Rekevics
3611 NE 137th St
Seattle WA 98125

I-339-001

Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall. With the realigned street, access to the property has been maintained, although a portion of land on the church property would be acquired for the Preferred Alternative and other at-grade alternatives. Elevated alternatives would also require a portion of the church property.

From: Jana Vitols <janavitols@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 11:33 PM
To: Lynnwood Link DEIS
Subject: Concerns about Sound Transit and the Latvian Center

Dear Lauren Swift,

I-340-001 I am writing in response to the Lynnwood Sound Transit DEIS. As a Latvian American with strong ties to the Seattle Latvian Center, I am concerned about the possible adverse side effects of the proposed light rail construction.

Being involved with the Latvian Center these past 12 years, I have found community through dancing and performing with the internationally recognized folk dance group, Tredeksnitis. Discovering the Latvian Center here also connected me to the Latvian language, which I wasn't raised speaking (in large part because there was no Latvian Center near where I grew up). The Latvian Center broadened my awareness of other Latvian educational opportunities in the Northwest, eventually connecting me to the University of Washington's Baltic Studies Program where I was able to continue my study of the language. I will be joining the Latvian choir this fall and look forward to learning more about the Latvian language through this experience.

The Latvian Center is a culturally important gathering place that brings together all ages to celebrate and pass along cultural traditions and values. I believe that the plans to proceed with building the Sound Transit Lynnwood Link line needs to take into account the least disruption to the center possible. I think this could be best done by building the non-elevated line and assuring that access to the center is guaranteed at all times during construction.

I hope in planning this you will be sensitive to the history that so many Latvian elders and their children experienced as displaced persons and refugees during WWII and their subsequent immigration to America. I urge you to consider the significance that the Latvian Center has in Seattle. Unlike other ethnic communities that have multiple gathering places, this is the singular center for the entirety of the Latvian community in Seattle.

Thank you for your consideration and preservation of this gem of a community space, gathering place, church, and educational center.

Sincerely,
Jana Vitols
3815 25th Ave. S.
Seattle, Wa. 98108

I-340-001

Thank you for describing the importance of the Latvian Center to you and the Latvian community. Following the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit to develop a Preferred Alternative that would avoid displacing the church. The Final EIS describes the additional engineering Sound Transit undertook to realign 3rd Avenue NE and avoid the potential displacement of the church. As a result, none of the Segment A alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS would displace the church or the church hall.