

*2/11/2021 System Expansion Committee
Meeting Public Comment Submissions*

Submissions

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Edward Miller

Members of the Sound Transit Board,

I wish to register my objection as a citizen to including the S 344th St site in Federal Way as a consideration for your OMF South facility. Selecting this site would eliminate over 250 jobs from the community, evict several small churches, level a neighborhood of affordable homes, and erase the last industrial blue-collar jobs in Federal Way. Our community cannot afford to lose this neighborhood.

Please consider the other sites instead of this one. I looking forward to light rail service in Federal Way and trust you to make the right decision for our community.

Thank you.
Edward C. Miller

Protect Federal Way

**** the letter referred to in this message is attached below for review.**

Members of the Sound Transit Board and the System Expansion Committee,
Enclosed please find a comment from owners in the S 344th St site, including owners of Ellenos Yogurt and GarageTown, concerning this site's consideration for the OMF South facility.
On behalf of the citizens of Federal Way, Kent, and Auburn, please eliminate the S 344th St Site from consideration for the OMF South. This site is different from the others in that it supports over 250 local skilled jobs, creates space for unique local businesses in a rare mixed-used industrial zone, provides affordable homes to 14 families, and represents significant business tax revenue for the City of Federal Way. Amidst a pandemic and high unemployment state-wide, none of those are disposable, and none of them will stay in Federal Way should the OMF South displace them.
We appreciate your thoughtful concern of this matter, and your inclusion of our feedback in your committee meeting today.
Best regards,
Brian Nash
Chair, Protect Federal Way
www.protectfederalway.org

Ken Broyles

I do not support evicting the homes and businesses in Site 10A / S 344th St in Federal Way for the OMF South. This the only industrial site that Federal Way has. A lot of the businesses on this site some of them are family owned & have been there for a long time. A lot of residential houses are in site 10A / S 344th too.

Please take a better look at the Midway landfill site. With federal funds this Midway landfill site fill site would be a great place for the OMF. The Midway landfill site has no businesses or residential housing so people lives won't be turned up side down. Take a look at Ruston way in Tacoma at the smelter plant they had for many years. It is beautiful now. There is shopping, apartments and a great place to go for a walk to enjoy the fresh air.

So please chose the Midway landfill site.

Best regards, Kenneth Broyles

February 10, 2020

Sound Transit Board
System Expansion Committee
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Board Member,

As you know, Sound Transit has been undergoing an extensive site selection process for the future Operations and Maintenance Facility South (“OMF South”) location. Three options remain, including two in Federal Way and the Midway Landfill site in Kent. We are writing you today to express our concerns about Sound Transit’s consideration of Site 10A (aka “The South 344th Street” site) in Federal Way and asking you to select a different site as your preferred alternative when this item comes before you for consideration.

Site 10A is currently home to hundreds of jobs, nearly 100 property owners and businesses, nine single family homes, two churches, and a radio station. The site also represents some of the only remaining critical industrial and manufacturing zoned property in the City of Federal Way.

Economy

Local favorite Ellenos Real Greek Yogurt has its worldwide headquarters and production facility on the site, which alone accounts for 150 jobs. Ellenos moved to Federal Way shortly before the site selection process began and made significant investments in the property. Additionally, sustainable lighting company Planled, Northwest Equipment Sales, Lee’s Automotive, Caliber Collision and many other businesses would be evicted from Federal Way, should Sound Transit select Site 10A as its preferred alternative.

Site 10A is also home to GarageTown, which is a unique storage facility for large personal items, collector cars, and other specialty hobbies. GarageTown is a collection of 67 storage condominiums, has 58 individual property owners, and supports 13 small businesses. It is the only facility of its kind in King, Snohomish, or Pierce County.

Prior to the global COVID pandemic and resulting economic collapse, the properties represented in Site 10A provided over 250 jobs to the Federal Way community, and Ellenos was planning additional investments in the site. Eventually our region and world will emerge from this uncertain time, and when we do these businesses will be a critical tool to help rejuvenate Federal Way’s economy and provide the jobs we need more than ever. Choosing Site 10A would have a negative economic impact to our community. Site 10A is the only one of the three remaining options that provides any economic benefit to the region, including jobs, economic development, and local and state tax contributions.

Housing

Site 10A is the only OMF South option remaining with residences on it, where nine families call the site home. These homes fall well below King County's average home price and need not be razed when other options still exist. Site 10A could also provide for additional housing development opportunities on site, unlike Midway Landfill which cannot be developed for residential use.

Recently, King County's Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, chaired by Board Members Balducci and Baker, issued a report that stated this region needed 156,000 more affordable units today and another 88,000 by 2040. Federal Way provides many affordable housing options when compared to Seattle and Eastside cities, and every effort should be made to preserve them.

Additionally, the South Federal Way Link Light Rail station is planned to be less than a quarter mile from Site 10A, so the site could represent future transit-oriented development opportunities, allowing the City of Federal Way to support TOD in this community.

Environment

Constructing OMF South on Site 10A could also have a significant impact on the environment. In addition to at least two acres of wetlands on site, Hylebos Creek runs through Site 10A and provides the headwaters to the Hylebos wetland system, one of the last remaining wetlands in the Puget Sound with peat bogs. The City of Federal Way commissioned a study on fish use in the Hylebos Creek and identified the presence of Chinook, Coho, chum, cutthroat and steelhead within the Creek.

Given the recent information about the decline of the Orca whale population in the Puget Sound, any potential impacts to their most important food source, Chinook, should give us all significant pause. Even if Sound Transit proposed to place the Hylebos Creek in a culvert through Site 10A, there would not be room for stream buffers which are essential, and required, to maintain the functions and values of stream corridor.

In Summary

For these reasons, and many more, the Federal Way city council sent you a letter in 2019 explaining the dramatic impact the selection of Site 10A would have on the City of Federal Way and asking board members to instead strongly consider the Midway Landfill site for OMF South.

As you move forward with the site selection process, please consider these impacts and **do not select Site 10A (South 344th Street)** as your preferred alternative. The other two site options in front of you contribute neither economic impact nor housing benefit to the community and would only effect one owner. Choosing either of the other two sites would be a decision much

more closely aligned with the greatest good for the King, Pierce, and Snohomish county communities.

We would be happy to answer any questions you have or host you for a tour of the homes, businesses, and important facilities in Site 10A.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*GarageTown Federal Way
Ellenos Yogurt*