



May 8, 2020

Dear Councilmember Herbold,

The FCA's West Seattle Bridge Committee has begun identifying issues we see with the current traffic detour through our Fauntleroy neighborhood and business district. We would like to discuss our recommendations with you for helping manage traffic flow, congestion and other challenges that will arise as the stay at home order is gradually lifted. We may come up with other suggestions as we see the effects of traffic increases develop in our area.

As mentioned in our previous letter, while the FCA agrees with the closure of the high bridge, the results create tremendous disruptions for the residents of West Seattle, and require dramatic changes in how people get onto and off of the Peninsula.

Issues with ferry detour route through Fauntleroy

Afternoon traffic:

- Vehicles returning to the Fauntleroy ferry cannot simply reverse the Barton Street detour route they used in the morning and safely access the end of the ferry line on the west side of Fauntleroy Way.
- Vehicles cannot turn left at the dock, but must continue north on Fauntleroy past the ferry dock and make U-turns to join the south-facing queue. U-turns in congested traffic are not only dangerous, but contribute to road rage, which is already an issue involving the ferry line. Additionally, longer vehicles such as trucks and trailers will block Fauntleroy Way, should they attempt to make a U-turn.
- If vehicles detour further north on 35th or California towards Morgan, they can reach Fauntleroy Way from north of the dock to safely queue up.

Reduction of traffic flow and congestion through Fauntleroy

At least during the period of bridge closure we need fewer cars trying to get in and out of West Seattle. The City has been encouraging people to use alternative transportation

options – including buses, light rail, walking, bicycling etc. We see this as a unique opportunity to reinforce those ideas here in West Seattle. Since SDOT's director and several Council members reside in West Seattle, we believe this would be an opportunity for you all to help lead the implementation of those and other ideas changing our mobility habits and patterns.

FCA sees this including efforts to:

- 1) support residents working from home.
- 2) significantly supplement public transportation through more frequent bus service, more shuttle bus routes, and more water taxi departures to downtown Seattle
- 3) limit freight and other delivery service into West Seattle to non-rush hour times – mid-day or evenings.
- 4) encourage traffic originating from south of Boeing Field destined for the 1st South Bridge to use East Marginal Way S.
- 5) divert eastbound vehicular ferry traffic originating from Southworth to either the Bremerton ferry, or the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and I-5.
- 6) divert off-peninsula vehicular traffic that uses West Seattle merely as a corridor for heading east and west, to bypass the West Seattle Peninsula.
- 7) increase foot passenger utilization of the Washington State Ferries. (Nearly 80% of cars heading west to the Kitsap Peninsula and Vashon during the afternoon commute have been single-occupancy).
- 8) increase use of the Tahlequah-Point Defiance Ferry crossing off the south end of Vashon island.
- 9) increase the use of foot ferries from Vashon to Seattle, and initiate the Kitsap County foot ferry this year instead of in 2021.
- 10) as you proposed, divert ferries destined to Fauntleroy from Southworth and Vashon directly to downtown.

We appreciate your help in bringing these issues to the attention of the various City, County and State departments. As we see with this SARS CoV-2 virus, it will take everyone's assistance to avoid making an already difficult situation worse.

Respectfully,

Mike Dey
Frank Immel
Marty Westerman