

From: Rollie Herman

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 7:05 AM

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Subject: AIA 150 | Sound Transit crossing Pacific Avenue | October 17 Study Session



Various neighborhood groups including the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council, Dome District and the Hillside Development Council have been involved in discussions with Sound Transit (ST) regarding the rail crossing of Pacific Avenue. A short time ago the American Institute of Architects (AIA) volunteered their time and expertise to look at the problem in much the same way as they did years ago when the 705 freeway was under design. Over the last couple of weeks AIA members have been able to produce several ideas which they have shared with the community and ST.

There are new elements in the ideas, some of which have created quite a bit of initial interest from the community groups and major players such as The Tacoma Rescue Mission and Brown & Haley. Last week the AIA asked the Public Works department to do two things:

- 1) Arrange to be part of the discussion at the October 17 study session.
- 2) Look at the plans to see if there are any obvious "fatal flaws".

It is our understanding that the review for fatal flaws is underway but the AIA, and the community, is being blocked at every turn in their effort to be a participant at the study session. Last night at the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting we were informed that since the fatal flaw review was not completed, it would not be good for the AIA to participate since they might "embarrass themselves". We were also informed that the proper way to get included in a study session was to ask the Mayor and City Manager directly rather than deal through City Staff.

Given the time table presented at the Environment and Public Works Committee meeting on September 27th we feel that it is vital that the AIA plans be presented to the City Council prior to any action being taken by the Council on this subject. At that meeting we were informed that such action would take place at a council meeting later this month. Therefore we formally request that the community, through its partner the AIA, be allowed to participate in the October 17, 2006 study session.

Sincerely,
Rollie Herman, President

PS: If you have not had a chance to review the AIA's ideas, we have posted them on our web site at: <http://hdctacoma.org/AIA150/default.asp> They are large files so make sure you have a speedy internet connection.

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