

Regional Manager Brian Nielsen, WSDOT & CEO Julie Timm, Sound Transit,

Lake Forest Park City Council formally requested our administration to apply for a speed reduction on State Route 522 at our August 10th meeting. This letter is in full support of that speed reduction. In addition to the important information in Resolution XXXX, attached we want to encourage WSDOT take into consideration additional information that has been identified by our community.

We are at a point in time where Sound Transit is nearing completion of their redesign of State Highway 522 to accommodate their Stride project. Their project widens 522 to add a North/East bound BAT lane and sidewalks. The final configuration of the roadway will be very similar to 522 in Kenmore where, after a recent speed review, WSDOT reduced the speed to 35MPH.

One element of the Stride project's design that relates to speed is its impact on our community via a two story concrete retaining wall. The City has been working with both Sound Transit and WSDOT to improve the visual design of this wall through tree relief patterns and vines pockets along the wall. While we applaud these efforts, the wall will be a large shift from a green corridor to a concrete corridor. Reducing the speed limit to 35MPH allows a reduction in lane width from 11' to 10'. This would yield a narrower road profile overall by approx. 4' and consequently reduce the amount of hillside that needs to be excavated. This would reduce the height of the retaining wall by approximately 3' (approximately 19% lower). A lower retaining wall lessens the visual impact on our community, reduces the quantity of soil being trucked offsite, shortens the excavation schedule, and reduces costs for Sound Transit. In addition, the reduction of the speed limit would make living in the single-family homes along 522 safer. While these driveways are typically considered low volume and do not generally contribute to lowering speeds, these residents are at high risk as they back into the highway instead of the shoulders they have now.

We entreat WSDOT to reconsider the speed limit of State Highway 522 through Lake Forest Park as this is a win for WSDOT, Sound Transit, and our community.

Additional technical information is provided in Attachments.

Kindly,

Councilmember Semra Riddle
Councilmember Larry Goldman
Councilmember Tom French, Deputy Mayor