



Friday, May 8, 2020

Dear Paulina Lopez,

Thank you for your letter on April 24. I want to formally recognize and address the concerns raised, as well as commit to working closely with you and the Southwest Seattle communities of Georgetown and South Park as we navigate this challenge together.

We recognize the closure of the West Seattle Bridge is an added impact to the Georgetown and South Park neighborhoods, which have historically already carried more than their fair share of transportation impacts. The City of Seattle is committed to advancing environmental justice in the Duwamish Valley and this community will be prioritized during the bridge closure.

SDOT received thoughtful and detailed letters from the Georgetown and South Park communities and responded to those letters earlier this week. Some of the recommendations require a more comprehensive evaluation and response that we hope to address through continued dialogue.

Your communities will have a voice at the table. In addition to the community letters and meetings, SDOT is completing additional outreach in historically underserved communities. This outreach will include utilizing the Department of Neighborhoods in disseminating information to community members, presenting at community meetings big and small, and making sure materials are available in multiple languages.

This is only the continuation of an ongoing conversation and partnership. We look forward to attending the South Park meeting on Wednesday, May 13 to continue discussion on safety, environmental health, and traffic management during the bridge closure and in the long term for your community. We remain committed to attending any Georgetown, South Park, or other community meeting you would like us to participate in – the same standing offer SDOT has provided to all organizations in Southwest Seattle. I attended and presented at the Georgetown community meeting on April 30 and will do the same at the South Park meeting on May 13.

In coming weeks, you can expect from SDOT a neighborhood-specific transportation plan as well as an update on planned improvements in Georgetown and South Park. Our transportation engineers and planners are developing plans that consider both recommendations from community letters and reflect predicted traffic volumes after the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is lifted.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or comments. Otherwise, I look forward to continuing the dialogue with you and will follow-up with any outstanding answers to existing questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Heather Marx, Seattle Department of Transportation