



April 22, 2020

Dear Council Member Herbold,

The Fauntleroy Community Association (FCA) is watching closely the issues around the closure of the West Seattle bridge. We fully recognize the importance to public safety with the decision to close the bridge and support that decision. Having said that we cannot overstate impact of the bridge closure on West Seattle in general and the Fauntleroy Community specifically. The issues around the bridge closure are clearly complex. Adding to the complexity and the decisions that need to be made is the uncertainty about the duration of the bridge closure. As you know it could be two years if the bridge is just repaired or five or six years if a new bridge is to be constructed.

The current stay at home order due to Covid 19 has severely limited travel to and from work and thus has temporarily lessened the impact of the closure. That includes dramatically reducing the ferry traffic from the 1.6 million vehicles a year that arrive and depart from the Fauntleroy Dock mostly during the morning and afternoon rush hours. When the traffic again ramps up after the stay at home rule is lifted diversion of this rush hour traffic through the small business area in Fauntleroy for two or more years will not be an acceptable option. The current detour cannot be handled by the streets without causing an unacceptable disruption to pedestrian and business traffic in this community. While such a diversion might work while the stay at home order is in effect as stated by SDOT's Heather Marx at last Monday's SDOT update to City Council, these current detours are not sustainable. An added complication is that Seattle Public Utilities over the next two years is planning to close all but one lane on 45th Ave SW north of SW Wildwood, and California Ave SW between the Fauntleroy Church and the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse in order to replace broken culverts that carry Fauntleroy Creek and the Fauntleroy salmon run. While SPU is planning to close each of these streets one at a time the construction planned is extensive in order to comply with Federal requirements for fish habitat.

We realize this is a rapidly evolving issue and we appreciate your involvement. The FCA Board discussed this issue at our recent business meeting and has established a committee

to provide community input to you, SDOT, Metro and WSF. That committee is comprised of Frank Immel , Chair of the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee for WSF, Marty Westerman, Co-Chair of the West Seattle Transportation Coalition and myself. All three of us are on the Board of the FCA. We would like to be included in any and all discussions with SDOT, Metro and WSF about management of traffic through West Seattle during the bridge closure.

Thank you for your help. We appreciate your efforts to include us in these discussions and trust we can provide valuable assistance.

Respectfully,
Mike