



# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 1, 2010

To: Mayor Davidson and City Councilmembers

From: Merle Keeney, Chair  
Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: B7 Modified East Link Light Rail Alternative

At the February 9, 2010 meeting of the Parks & Community Services Board, there was a brief discussion of the B7 Modified East Link light rail alternative that the City Council proposed for further study to Sound Transit.

The Parks & Community Services Board has concerns over how this proposed alternative would impact the Mercer Slough Natural Area. Should the B7 Modified alignment continue to be considered, the Board requests that additional information be provided to the Board by City or Sound Transit staff in order to fully comprehend the impact and the degree to which these impacts may or may not be able to be mitigated.

Mercer Slough Natural Area is one of the city's largest and most iconic parks. The first parcel was purchased by the City in 1957 and expanding and enhancing the park has been arguably one of the most consistent priorities of this City since incorporation. Over five decades, tens of millions of dollars have been invested in making this park a signature feature of Bellevue's park system. The City has been able to leverage support for the development of the park from King County, the State of Washington the National Parks Service and U.S. Congressional funding as well as private sector businesses investments from Puget Sound Energy, Boeing and others.

The Parks & Community Services Board understands that all East Link alternatives currently under consideration include differing levels of impact Mercer Slough Natural Area and other parks within the system. As with all park and recreation decisions considered by the Council, the Board extends an offer to work within its advisory role to evaluate and provide feedback to the Council regarding potential park impacts and mitigation strategies for all East Link alternatives.

The Board looks forward to working with the Council to continue the City of Bellevue's long standing commitment to maintain Bellevue as a City in Park.

cc: Parks & Community Services Board

