
The
FREMONT
Neighborhood Council

December 3, 2007

Mr. Ryan K. Thurston
Seattle F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
701 N.34th St., Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98103

Dear Ryan:

The Fremont Neighborhood Council wishes to affirm our support for Seattle F.R.I.E.N.D.S.' mission to eliminate suicides from the Aurora Bridge. The loss of life due to suicide is tragic and has an impact on all concerned: the victim, the victim's family and friends and anyone who witnesses such an act. While our focus as an organization is on the Fremont neighborhood, our concern for this issue is not limited to the neighborhood as it is a broader societal issue for our region and state.

We support finding a solution to the problem, however, the Fremont Neighborhood Council is concerned that thorough consideration has not been given to the various options to solve the problem. A solution has yet to be identified that is effective and aesthetically sensitive to the landmark George Washington Memorial Bridge and the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, there has not been a careful and public consideration of the relative costs and secondary impacts of alternative solutions.

We have received feedback from a number of Fremont residents regarding the broad psychological and aesthetic impacts a physical (and visual) barrier will have.

Furthermore, we agree with the Queen Anne Community Council's recommendation to include remediation of the existing unsafe driving conditions (high rate of speed traffic with substandard lanes and the absence of a center barrier) as part of the suicide prevention project. If we're going to spend millions of dollars on it, we should address all public health and safety issues associated with the George Washington Bridge's current configuration.

On behalf of the FNC board, we ask and trust that your organization will appropriately convey the Fremont Neighborhood Council's commitment to the cause of eliminating suicide from the Aurora Bridge and our support for working with all interested parties to identify an appropriate solution from identified reasonable alternatives.

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Vafa Ghazi
President