



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 302 • Washington • Alaska • Idaho • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager & General Vice President*

November 10, 2016

Mayor Edward B. Murray
City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Re: The Missing Link of the Burke Gilman Trail

The Honorable Mayor Murray:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 302 (IUOE 302) has serious concerns over the City of Seattle (City) and the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) proposed plan to complete the Missing Link of the Burke Gilman Trail along Shilshole Avenue Northwest, which is in the heart of the maritime industrial district in Seattle's Ballard community. We urge the City to reconsider its position and locate the trail along the alternative put forth along Leary Avenue and Market Street.

IUOE 302 represents approximately 12,000 working men and women throughout Washington, Idaho and Alaska. Our union is a vital member of the Pacific Northwest region, dedicated to serving the best interests of our membership and the entire community. We are actively involved in various aspects of city construction projects, including Community Workforce Agreement negotiations and development.

IUOE 302 has contracts with family-owned, local businesses located in the maritime industrial district in Ballard. SDOT's insistence on completing the Burke Gilman Trail along Shilshole Avenue Northwest present enormous problems for these businesses—safety problems, logistical problems, operational problems, etc.-- which in turn present enormous problems to our members, who depend and rely on the family- and union wage jobs these companies provide. The City must not exchange the job security of thousands of people for 1.5 miles of recreational bicycle trail when there is a reasonable and perfectly acceptable alternative available that is only two blocks away. We strongly support the completion of the trail along Leary Avenue and Market Street because it moves the trail outside of the maritime industrial district, does not mix bikes and trucks, and protects the thousands of family- and union-wage jobs in this area.

If SDOT remains entrenched in its position and insists on locating the trail through the heart of this area, the businesses located along the trail, and the employees who work for them, will undoubtedly suffer. It is our understanding that SDOT expects to run the trail so close to certain businesses that they will lose their loading bay, or remove a driveway which has been used by a business for many years. These loading docks and driveways are vital to the day-to-day operations of these businesses.

It is also our understanding that SDOT will do this without having ever even spoken to these businesses located along Shilshole Avenue Northwest. SDOT never consulted with them or even gave them the courtesy of a telephone call during this process. This cavalier disregard for the maritime and industrial tradition is shocking. As you know, Seattle's maritime and industrial businesses are an integral part of

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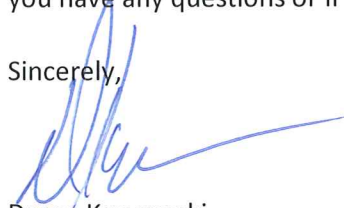


our regional economy because they employ thousands of people and generate billions of dollars of annual revenue in Puget Sound. It is appalling that the City would stand by as SDOT disregards these businesses in favor of recreational cyclists and pedestrians. There is simply no reason to do so when there is a reasonable alternative like the Leary Avenue and Market Street alternative available. The City must know that if SDOT constructs the recreational bicycle trail on Shilshole Avenue Northwest, many of the family-owned maritime and industrial businesses located on that street will suffer economically and some will be forced out of business. This will directly impact IUOE 302 because the very jobs that our membership relies on will downsize, relocate, or disappear altogether.

IUOE 302 requests the City, together with SDOT, to reconsider the position regarding construction of the trail on Shilshole Avenue Northwest in favor of a reasonable solution on Leary Avenue and Market Street. Saving union and family-wage jobs must be more important than building a recreational trail.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact Denny McKinney at (206) 841-4170 if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Daren Konopaski

International Vice President and Business Manager