

**White, Paul**

**From:** John Burreson <highlinerpub@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mailbox, Commission-Public-Records  
**Subject:** SDOT Nickerson/Emerson St Overpass Closure  
**Attachments:** POS Commission Meeting 9-30-14.docx

To whom it may concern,

Attached please find my comments and concern regarding the upcoming Nickerson/Emerson St. Overpass Closure. I apologize regarding this last minute notice, but I have just recently been informed on September 25, 2014 that the project was given approval and is scheduled to begin October 9, 2014.

I have kept our comments brief, but have real concerns regarding the impact of this closure. I appreciate any support that the Port of Seattle can afford my business on this matter.

I am available for discussion of these issues at your convenience.

Respectfully,

John E. Burreson  
**Highliner Public House**  
206-216-1254  
Fishermen's Terminal  
3909 18<sup>th</sup> Ave West  
Seattle, WA 98119  
<http://www.highlinerpub.net>



September 29, 2014

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners,

We respectfully request that Port of Seattle gives consideration to our concerns regarding the recently announced 3 month closure of the Nickerson/Emerson St. Overpass greatly restricting access to and from Fishermen's Terminal. Any support that the Port of Seattle can provide to the businesses of Fishermen's Terminal regarding this issue will be greatly appreciated.

To keep these comments brief we will not reiterate the particulars of the closure as we feel that POS is most likely aware of them.

As a retailer at Fishermen's Terminal, we along with many other business owners both retail and non-retail have the following concerns:

- As stakeholders we were never consulted in advance regarding this project.
- Many of us are concerned regarding the timing of the project as it comes during the busy holiday season, which for retailers, is by far our busiest time of the year. And non-retail businesses have the same concerns, as the commercial fishing fleet returns in September and a majority of businesses in Fishermen's Terminal provide services to the fleet in the non-fishing season of October, November and December.
- We feel the duration of the project, at approximately 3 months, will be financially devastating to many businesses at Fishermen's Terminal as access to the terminal will be greatly reduced. We have been told that work will be performed on weekdays only. A consensus of business owners at Fishermen's Terminal request that work be done on a 7 day work week with crews running on a 24/7 schedule to reduce the duration of the project.
- At a meeting with SDOT that occurred on Monday, September 29, 2014 it was a majority opinion that the project was somewhat shortsighted as the overpass is only being repaired and not improved for the ever increasing traffic flow. SDOT agreed that traffic loads on the overpass as well as the Dravus St. alternative route are both already at maximum capacity noting the daily traffic backups, especially from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. It was agreed by all that road capacity needed to be improved.
- We understand that road repairs are necessary, however this project should not only repair the overpass but improve capacity. If this was the case, again a majority opinion was that the 3 month closure would be easier to tolerate if an improved result were to be had. But as it stands, once completed, no enhancements to this already overly congested roadway will be made.
- In addition to perform work during the obvious busy holiday season, is unacceptable to retailers in Fishermen's Terminal and will result in reduction of employee hours and possible layoffs. At the very least we request that this project be postponed until January of 2015 which is a naturally occurring "down time" in retail sales and business in general.

Sincerely,

John Burreson, Owner/Operators of Highliner Public House, Fishermen's Terminal