

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Casey Moreau](#)
Cc: rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
Subject: Transportation Policy Board Thursday, February 8, 2024
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 2:15:24 PM
Attachments: [PSRC SR520 Project.pdf](#)

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Please have the following attachment be considered a public comment for the upcoming Puget Sound Regional Council for next Thursday, February 8, 2024. Thank you.

Brian Saunders

Board Member

LFP Stewardship Foundation



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ATTN:

President Dave Somers
Councilmember Rod Dembowski

I am writing to express my deep concern for the BRT SR 522/145th Street Project. Specifically, the proposal for widening and modifying the overpass near NE 153rd Street involving a culvert system for Bsche'tla Creek Watershed. This location is situated on unstable steep terrain, posing a significant threat to the health of Bsche'tla Creek, a waterbody in desperate need of restoration. As a college instructor of Environmental and Biological Science and a trained ecologist, I am compelled to demand *any* development that threatens our natural systems be given top priority to mitigate all impacts.

Recent biological assessments utilizing the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity ([B-IBI](#)) scoring system have categorized Bsche'tla Creek as "[Very Poor](#)" indicating its fragile state. Supporting this assessment, we have recently documented observations of the creek bed which reveal alarming deposits of refuse including car tires below the proposed project site ([the-untold-story-of-bschetla-creek.html](#)). The Stewardship Foundation is planning to apply for Watershed Restoration grants this year to help clean up Bsche'tla Creek. This project is bound to take many years and countless efforts of the entire community and would be completely undone by mismanagement of ST modification of this overpass.

I am particularly concerned and perplexed by the 2021 report on Environmental Documentation for the project listed as "Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)" without ANY mention of how runoff will impact the Bsche'tla Watershed.

Of particular concern are the inactions to:

- Minimizing stormwater runoff and preventing losses from turbidity and pollution of wetlands, fish-bearing waters, and wildlife habitats.
- Maintaining the functions of stream, habitat, and riparian corridors.

It should also be noted that Bsche'tla Creek is classified as an "F-type" stream, indicating its status as a fish-bearing watershed. Any disruption caused by the proposed modification could have devastating effects on the fragile ecosystem supporting salmon, and other vital species.

I strongly encourage the Puget Sound Regional Council to hold Sound Transit accountable to environmental commitments and demand that stormwater runoff be mitigated to avoid adversely affecting Bsche'tla

Creek. Doing so is not only a legal responsibility but a moral obligation to preserve and protect our natural resources for current and future generations.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to decisive action that prioritizes the well-being of our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian K. Saunders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "S".

Brian Saunders, M.S.
Board Member, LFP Stewardship Foundation
Adjunct Environmental Science/Biology
Shoreline Community College
North Seattle College