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RTC.EDU

August 24, 2020

Mr. Pat McLaughlin, Director
King County Solid Waste Division
201 South Jackson Street, Room 701
Seattle, WA 98104
via email

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

I write to express concern regarding the Solid Waste Division's plans for the relocation of the Support Facilities Center to the Renton Highlands (Option 3). As President of Renton Technical College (RTC), I am most worried about the impact of the increased truck traffic on the safety and well-being of RTC students, staff, and faculty. In 2018, RTC purchased from King County the nearly 5-acre plot which is the site of the former King County Public Health building at 3001 NE 4th St., Renton. This will be the location of our next state-funded capital project, a 70,000 sf. Health Sciences building.

Like your proposed facility, the public health site is on the south side of NE 4th, and our main campus—the location of all other campus operations including student services, food services, the library, and other classrooms and labs—is on the north side of NE 4th St. Once the Health Sciences Building is operational, more than 500 students, faculty, and staff will be crossing NE 4th back and forth during the day and evening, likely more than once per day. The combination of heavy truck traffic and significant pedestrian traffic is worrying primarily as a safety issue; secondarily as a noise impact on teaching and learning; and lastly, as an increased congestion problem on the main arterial for access to our campus and to I-405 and downtown Renton.

It is clearly my belief that Options 1 and 2 are better suited for siting the Support Facilities Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin D. McCarthy, Ph.D.
President

cc: Dow Constantine, King County Executive
King County Council
Armando Pavone, Mayor, City of Renton
Ruth Pérez, President, Renton City Council
Valerie O'Halloran, Chair, City Council Utilities Committee