

Public Comments from the Public Meeting for the Federal Way 320th Library

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30-8pm

Bill Ptacek introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. He briefly explained that at a recent City Council meeting he promised Councilmembers that KCLS would utilize the public meeting to discuss the issues surrounding moving the Federal Way 320th Library, rather than merely discussing individuals positions. Milenko Matanovic was hired to help facilitate that discussion. He emphasized that the presumption of the library district is that we'll do exactly what we said we'd do in the bond issue (per promotional materials). He pointed out, however, that the ballot language includes a provision for the KCLS Board to make changes to the ten-year Capital Plan and the projects contained therein. He explained that in making any significant changes, the Board will attempt to gather and assess all of the relevant information. In addition to the possible changes in circumstances, other factors that to be considered might include development concerns, construction costs, operational costs, functionality and service disruption. Bill Ptacek reiterated that the process for changing capital projects was not the focus of the meeting, but rather the focus was to be on discussing the best site for the library.

Bill Ptacek reminded the audience that, under the program approved by voters in September 2004, a new 15,000-square-foot replacement library, to be built on the current site beginning in 2013 with a budget of \$6.1 million. He mentioned that after the bond election, KCLS became aware of an opportunity to consider development in downtown area. At this point, KCLS has not made a decision one way or another, but has agreed to consider another option as similar situations have been considered in other communities (i.e. Newcastle, Sammamish, Kenmore and Burien). Unless there is a compelling argument to consider a site other than the current location of the Federal Way 320th Library, the Board will have no reason to go through analysis process required to change the capital project. Bill Ptacek reiterated that this meeting was being held after concern was raised about a lack of notification for the October 2005 meeting.

Milenko Matanovic introduced himself explained that the meeting goal was to **have a constructive input/discussion about the optimal location for a new library**. He reviewed the agenda and said the team of staff from KCLS is here to listen or answer questions when required; the role of the audience is to give constructive input that can help the Board make an informed decision; the facilitator will ensure the meeting is run well and that everyone gets a chance to speak. He briefly mentioned that members of the Federal Way City Council were present, [as were members of the press and observers from other communities].

Prior to inviting the public to identify pros and cons about the current and proposed site (or other potential sites for a library in Federal Way), Milenko Matanovic reviewed the Ground Rules and asked participants to be civil, thoughtful and future-oriented.

Patrick Doherty, Director of Economic Development for the City of Federal Way made a brief presentation about the City Center Vision and why the City engaged KCLS in discussions about the possibilities of having a library in the city center.

In regards to previously given examples of KCLS co-locating with City Hall near transit, audience members asked if the City of Federal Way intended to move its City Hall near the

transit center. Patrick Doherty explained that the City Center Vision is a 20-year plan and that future facilities should always consider the City Center as an option during their site selection process. At this point, he said he couldn't say if City Hall will be there in the future. It was also pointed out by an audience member that the current Federal Way 320th Library is located within the City's "frame" zone adjacent to their "core" zone.

Dri Ralph, Facilities Design Coordinator for KCLS explained that KCLS uses a Board-approved set of Site Selection Criteria when considering locations for new libraries. She noted that KCLS staff have not concluded an analysis of the current and proposed sites against these criteria, but briefly highlighted a few of the pros and cons for both sites:

- ◆ **Visibility and Traffic Counts:** essentially equal between the sites
- ◆ **Site Capacity:** potentially limited on the current site by a stream; cost of structured parking on the transit center site must be evaluated
- ◆ **Access:** current site desirable for pedestrian access from nearby housing, but right turn in/out from 320th Street; four bus routes serve current site; higher density housing surrounding transit center site, but question about it being a pedestrian-friendly location; increased north/south access to transit center site via vehicle and to all transit users.
- ◆ **Centrality:** current location in "frame" zone versus transit center site in "core" zone of City Center Vision; there is potential for future development surrounding the transit center site in the City Center core
- ◆ **Site Infrastructure:** transit center site would require structured parking and additional assessment
- ◆ **Cost and Availability:** KCLS owns the current site of the library; transit center site would need to be purchased from Sound Transit
- ◆ **Partnerships:** the current single-story, single-use building is zoned to allow building as tall as 85 feet; partnership available, but not identified for current site; Sound Transit is obvious partner on transit center site

The audience raised questions about the stream on the current site and its environmental impact, as well as the cost of building structured parking.

COMMUNITY INPUT/ANALYSIS:

- ◆ Who raised issue to move? *As mentioned earlier, Bill Ptacek said that because the City of Federal Way's City Center Vision calls for a library in their downtown "core," discussion ensued after the bond election. The City of Federal Way encouraged KCLS to consider the possibility of partnering with Sound Transit to relocate the Federal Way 320th Library to the site next to the transit center.* The audience member reiterated that a body of taxpayers didn't raise this issue.

Milenko Matanovic reiterated that much discussion could ensue about how we came to this point, but asked if it was worthwhile to consider the options. In response to his question, many audience members indicated disagreement - other locations should not be considered.

- ◆ A criminal analysis needs to be conducted for the transit center site; the environment is unnatural compared to the more natural, tree-lined environment of the current location
- ◆ Question was raised if KCLS anticipated having problems selling the current site in the event the library is relocated

- ◆ The transit center site is a commercial site with too much traffic noise that would impact library and meeting room users. The Federal Way 320th Library is set further back from the road, which reduces traffic noise.
- ◆ A member of the audience left the meeting, expressing her disapproval of the unruly crowd and her unwillingness to stay and participate because the facilitator wasn't controlling the audience.
- ◆ In 2013, \$6.1 million will not be enough to fund the replacement of the Federal Way 320th Library. It was suggested that the "best bang for the buck" with cost inflation will be to remodel the current library rather than relocate.
- ◆ A complaint was made about the money spent to renovate the current library recently and how that will be impacted if the library is torn down or relocated. *Bill Ptacek explained that minor renovation and ongoing maintenance is necessary, especially for those capital projects that won't begin until 2013. He reiterated that KCLS was not aware of the transit center site option until after those changes/improvements were made at the current library.*
- ◆ A resident of 22 years believes the new library would be safer, more accessible and more visible at the transit center site, if it's permissible.
- ◆ Concerned was raised about relocating the library near transit center as vagrants are likely to loiter and use the lobby as a waiting rooms.
- ◆ Its stupid to tear down and rebuild the library
- ◆ A resident of 43 years said the current library has been the community's center. Why does someone want to replace the community center with another; why tear one up?

Milenko Matanovic pointed out that KCLS needs to consider residents in other areas of the City that aren't currently using the library.

- ◆ In response to Dri Ralph's brief Site Selection analysis, it was pointed out that the decision to include the City's "frame" zone adjacent to the "core" was intentional and made with knowledge that there would be intense development in that "core."
- ◆ A resident of more than 30 years, and a retired teacher, spoke to the extensive use of the current library by students. It was reiterated that the current library is conveniently located for area schools. The bond issue talked about expanding the current library on the same site, where there is space to do so. Leave the library where it is and expand upwards.
- ◆ The transit center site is aimed towards economic development; a library would not yield taxes like a retail use would. People getting off the buses want to go home, not hang out at the library. Because the library is a public building, staff won't be able to ask vagrants to leave. KCLS owns the Federal Way 320th Library site, so use it.
- ◆ Where, on the transit center site, are you going to put the library? The grassy, triangular lot is very small.

Comments ensued from the audience about the facilitator being biased.

- ◆ A resident since 1965 and a school teacher advocated for the boys and girls of the neighborhood near the Federal Way 320th Library, which has become a blue collar neighborhood. The boys and girls need safe site; keep the library that safe place.
- ◆ A resident since 1962 and a retired high school education said the library in its present location is a valuable anchor for the neighborhood, which used to be primarily white, Anglo-Saxon protestant. Federal Way High School has also become more diverse (50% are now non-white), and many students need a lot of help/assistance. The library is the central core of education, a major issue in this country. In this age of technology with computers available in library, needless to say books, etc, the library is the place that humanizes a neighborhood that's become increasingly diverse.
- ◆ The Federal Way 320th Library is a community tradition. When the library traumatically burnt down, many community members were involved in rebuilding it. It is a central point in the community; it was recently remodeled and can be expanded easily. The people getting on and off the buses at the Transit Center aren't likely to come into the library.
- ◆ An advocate of bicycle riders commented that drivers near the transit center site will likely be anxious to get on main thoroughfares and won't be as cognizant of riders at this major parking area. Support was expressed for the comfort afforded bicyclists at the current site.
- ◆ It is not financially sensible, safe or wise to move the library. In favor of leaving the library where it is; wouldn't send children to the transit center site.

Milenko Matanovic asked if the audience had entertained the thought of alternative locations other than the transit center site. The audience resoundingly said no.

- ◆ An individual who has sold real estate in area said the transit center site is not where the library users are; library users want the library to stay where it is.
- ◆ The library is for the children. Moving the library to the transit center site will take away from kids wanting to stay at the library. Kids will be distracted the nearby McDonalds or the theatre, or will get on the buses and head elsewhere.
- ◆ Unequivocal support of the library staying where it is. Residents have shown what they think of the downtown "core," as evidenced by the local business failures. The City can't try to force feed us.
- ◆ An audience member pointed out that there is multi-family, in addition to single-family housing surrounding the current library location (i.e. Trinidad, Celebration Park). In comparison, there are mostly senior apartments near the transit center site. Keep the library where the people have been using for 30 years and will be here for 30 years more.
- ◆ A question was raised about the cost of parking (estimated \$400,000) and its impact on a \$1.6 million project budget. *Dri Ralph clarified that the project budget is \$6.1 million.* Regardless, the project should be managed in a financially responsible way, which does not include building additional structured parking.
- ◆ Partnering with Sound Transit is perceived to be a negative; a strange partnership with the library.

- ◆ Moving the library to the transit center site would make it more difficult to get to the library. Access to the current Federal Way 320th Library could improve in the future, so KCLS should maintain the current library. Suggested that KCLS keep the library in its current location and consider putting another smaller library east of I-5 to keep residents and voters happy.
- ◆ Expressed that the so-called positives about the transit center site are actually negatives that are being minimized by KCLS staff. Concerned that there aren't as many residences surrounding the transit center site; that patrons can't use the transit center garage; and both sites are equally visible.
- ◆ Concerns raised that a lack of trust has been created by KCLS considering doing something different than was publicized during the bond measure; how will that impact the next election that will be passed.
- ◆ The people spoke when they voted. If KCLS wants to build another library, consider that. It's understood that KCLS has authority to ignore what the voters said, but the publicity during the public information effort clearly said the library would be expanded and upgraded at the existing site.

Milenko Matanovic mentioned there are circumstances when changing conditions need to be considered in light of changing communities and the need for the Board to have flexibility.

- ◆ A resident of 18 years and former KCLS staff member, said to keep the library at the current site, not just because it's beautiful, but because she has no faith in the City of Federal Way's ability to create a city center near the Transit Center.
- ◆ Clarified that accessibility to the current library is not right in/right out only; there is an exit out the back that leads to a signal. Emphasized the library is very accessible. As a mother with two small children who love the library, she feels safe letting them wander just a little bit. At the transit center site, it will be difficult to keep children from running in front of traffic, etc.
- ◆ Leave the library at its current, beautiful site; it's a wonderful asset
- ◆ Audience member who raised her children at the Federal Way 320th Library said she would hate to see it built on another site. The current library is a powerful tradition in the community.
- ◆ A resident of 36 years who also took her kids to the library asked KCLS not to replace history. Putting the library in another location won't solve any problems. The current location doesn't have the hustle and bustle of cars and busses. It's the place families have been raised and a place of safety. Federal Way has a hard time being a community; the current library is the one place Federal Way has community.
- ◆ A resident of 45 years said the east side of Federal Way doesn't have a library; better access is needed for those residents.
- ◆ A 17 year resident spoke in favor of the library at the transit center site. He and his wife recently moved nearer downtown and would enjoy a place of learning, rather than additional retail, in the heart of the city.

- ◆ A student testified to the fact that many students use the Federal Way 320th Library. She also said her large family been going there for years. She commented that putting the library next to the transit center will detract from the area bookstores. Suggested that the City spend money advertising to attract business downtown.
- ◆ A resident of 38 years mentioned the City of Federal Way's debt and emphasized that the library would take a prime piece of commercial real estate if it was relocated. Also mentioned issues of pan handling being drawn near the library if it was moved to the transit center site. High volume traffic near the transit center site will also be a problem. Concerns expressed about how safe it will be to park and leave a car at the transit center garage.
- ◆ A mother of six said it is reasonable to expect potential litigation as a result of moving the library based on the statements in the bond measure publicity. Beyond public trust, this will affect KCLS' finances by impacted future funding. As a voter, she said she supports agency who handle things the right way; if not, she'll scream at the top of her lungs. Expressed concern about the safety of children as it relates to pan handling, vagrancy and homelessness, which is often accompanied by a high incidence of drug use and alcohol. Moving the library is not financially prudent.
- ◆ Audience member and transit user said the library located at the transit center site would be good for people who can't drive or use a wheelchair because it's very accessible.
- ◆ Voters feel betrayed because they were told the current library would be rebuilt on current site. The Federal Way 320th Library is a long standing tradition and is warm and safe.
- ◆ A teacher said the library is the heart of any school. The transit center is not an appropriate location for young library users.
- ◆ The transit center site has no advantages over the existing site. There is a misperception that the library will draw people to the downtown area, and consequently help the businesses. The library will increase traffic downtown and counter the City's goals.
- ◆ Comment made about how Tacoma Public is experience problems with drug use, etc. Their readership dropped to such an extent that security had to be hired.
- ◆ Commented that the City is trying to build a new mega center that will end up looking like Bellevue. The transit center site is not suitable for library. The City should condemn the property where a theatre recently closed so a reference library/community center can be built in partnership with City Hall and a police station.
- ◆ A part-time resident said the emphasis on visibility is ludicrous as people don't stumble upon library; people who can't find library probably don't need one.
- ◆ A resident said KCLS needs to consider moving the Federal Way 320th Library to temporary quarters during the renovation.

Milenko Matanovic wrapped up the meeting by asking if anyone learned anything new by listening to others' comments. Answers included:

- ◆ There is a need for a library east of I-5 in Federal Way
- ◆ The transit center site is potentially dangerous
- ◆ The library is a big part of community

The following comments/questions ensued:

- ◆ Is Mr. Ptacek an elected official?
- ◆ How much will what we say matter?
- ◆ How can we stop the Board from moving the Federal Way 320th Library?
- ◆ Will signatures in any number influence the Board's decision one way or another?
- ◆ The purpose of the library is not to improve the city center; the library is for kids and anyone who wants to use it.

Bill Ptacek explained that the issues raised will be taken to the Board at their April 25 meeting, at which a decision to purchase the transit center site will not be made. The Board may decide not to pursue the transit center site further, or they may decide to get more information about it. The City Council may weigh in at their meeting on April 18. KCLS is operating under the presumption that the Federal Way 320th Library will be replaced at the existing site unless there is a substantial reason not to. No decision has been made to-date. The KCLS Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for that decision.

Written Comments

received before and after the public meeting

- ◆ I would just like to express the expansion of the 320th Library, instead of building a new library by the Transit Center because it would be an invitation of trouble like mentioned in the meeting on Wednesday. It would not make any sense to put a new library by the Transit Center. The trouble would be of past attraction to those who have painted graffiti; vandalism in that area would more likely escalate to being more crime in the area. I would like to point out the 320th Library is really the heart of Federal Way, the community around it, the homes, schools, etc. The value of the 320th Library has brought the value of homes in real estate and just imaging the value of homes that have brought that much more value to the library. That library has the education to help our kids succeed and excel in learning. You can take the library out of the kid, but why would you take learning in the library from the kid. Libraries are here to stay for future learning. Learning is the foundation of excelling with four walls and a roof. I really don't think any parent(s) would want to see the children deprived of learning, to be educated through the resources of even a Library System. Improvements around the 320th Library should consist of expanding (up on building; second floor), trees taken out (more visibility) and expand the parking lot and also better parking lot lights for added security. It is always better to maintain a building (upkeep) than it is to ask for a new one. I believe the City of Federal way need to support community folks (public) other than defending their politics. As far as I am concerned, everyone missed the heart of the matter: kids, education and libraries.
- ◆ Moving the library to the Transit Center opens KCLS up to potential lawsuits, not to mention the aspects of public distrust and the lack of future support for bond issues concerning the Library System. The safety of our children is of utmost concern. Putting them in an area with historically high crime and drug and alcohol use and pan handling (Transit Center) is unacceptable. Area of Transit Center is not pedestrian or bicycle friendly because of heavy traffic. People who are physically disable and unable to walk from the transit center to the library site will have no ability to go to the library if they can't walk that distance or across a busy (with cars and buses) street quickly; you'll force them to abandon their library interests. Why not a mobile library or a temporary library for the east side?
- ◆ Moving to the transit center site will reduce circulation. Children will not come to the Transit Center. They check out more books than adults!
- ◆ It would be nice to keep the 320th neighborhood library. The transit location, especially at the vacant theater on the west side of the transit center, would be handy to Top Foods and Wal-Mart stops. We east of I-5 could use a library too. We have none and west Federal Way has three. We have a lot of schools too.
- ◆ 320th is a popular library. We live east of I-5 and we need a closer King County Library. The transit center would be closer.
- ◆ The bond was deceiving. I don't believe it would have passed if we the voters thought it was going to be moved from the present site.

- ◆ It needs to remain at 320th. The core does not need this library. Transients will run people off. Traffic will keep smaller kids from using it.
- ◆ Please do not move the 320th Library. The community feels this is used and loved by all of Federal Way. You could see by how many turned out and spoke (99% to keep 320th).
- ◆ I think that no matter what the people say; you're not going to listen to us. This was the idea from the former Mayor Dean M. You sound like you're going to build it anyway. You're taking business away from Federal Way. You complain and do nothing about it. Moving the library is a bad idea.
- ◆ Keep the library where it is. It is served by five buses (181, 187, 179, 197 and 903). It is a quieter, safer site (less traffic all around). The Transit Center will attract vagrants. New signage can increase visibility. Better parking at current site. Parking garages are scary. We voted for replacement not relocation. KCLS is baiting and switching. Meeting rooms will be too noisy at new site. We spent money to improve current site.
- ◆ Keep it at its current location! Keep your word that you gave on the bond issue. The current location is heavily used, especially by students. It is a safe location for students and it is currently located in the center of Federal Way's population.
- ◆ The 320th location is excellent and the transit site is a negative place. It makes no sense to put it downtown. No one is requesting it be moved and many residents have spoken in favor of it remaining where it is. Listen to the voters who voted it to be enjoyed where it is.
- ◆ Keep the library right where it is!
- ◆ Leave the library where it is!
- ◆ Keep the library at 320th
- ◆ You can put a small library on the east side. Federal Way is big enough to have three libraries. Leave 320th alone.
- ◆ For 22 years our family has enjoyed the use of the 320th Library. I can well identify with those opposing a library change of location. Providing it is permissible I support a new library on the site near the transit center. I believe a new library there will be safer, more visible and more accessible and will be far serve the greatest number of people.

E-mail Comments

received before and after the public meeting

- ◆ I am strictly against relocating the Federal Way 320th Library next to the Federal Way Transit Center downtown. I remember voting for the 8 cent property tax levy in 2004 to develop the new building that would be erected on the 320th site when the old library building was torn down. The one meeting to inform the public on October 13,, 2005 at the 320th library was poorly advertised; unlike the signs and other advertisements for schools and candidates. This library is used by Federal Way high and elementary students, parents, senior citizens, etc. I have lived in this home for 40 years. My five children used this library and now my grandchildren use it as I do. My acquaintances who live near the Transit Center say they would much prefer the 320th location compared to the Transit Center where people are going and coming home from work.
- ◆ The public has recently been made aware of proposed plans to relocate the successful neighborhood 320th library branch in Federal Way to a new location near a recently completed transit center nearer to Interstate 5 and "downtown" Federal Way. Please note this family's strong disagreement with this proposed move. The 320th branch in Federal Way serves the immediate neighborhoods of two elementary schools and is within walking distance of a middle school and a high school. While it sits on a major thoroughfare served by bus lines, it is also easily assessable by foot and bike by the surrounding residential areas, chiefly moderate to lower income homes and apartment buildings. The 320th library is always busy and alive with the buzz of patrons. It is what a community library should be. The proposal to move a successful, community facility far away from most residential buildings, next to a facility whose sole purpose is of a transitory nature is not logical. That Federal Way City Council wants to use it to continue in their futile attempt to build a "downtown" is wasteful. "Downtown" Federal Way consists of a half empty shopping mall, five check cashing facilities and a number of national chains whose continued presence is precarious at best, (witness the recent exodus of Mervyn's, Old Navy and Toys R Us). Keep what works. If you choose to open an entirely new branch to serve the eastern portion of Federal Way, we would support the plan fully. But, do not destroy a well-used community asset in the meantime.
- ◆ I don't know if this is the proper place to register my hopes for the Federal Way library potential new location but I will give it a try and hope you can relate it to the proper person. We live east of I-5, still Federal Way school system, Auburn address, but probably will be annexed to Federal Way eventually. We need a library closer to the east side and the suggested location at the new Regional Transit Center would be wonderful. The west side has three libraries with 320th, 1st Avenue and Mark Twain. Auburn and Algona-Pacific are a long way away from us. Hope the downtown Federal Way location is still in the plans.
- ◆ I have just read that the library board is considering closing the recently refurbished 320th Street Library and replacing it with a new library near the just opened Federal Way Transit Center. I have always considered the library system throughout the US, but particularly in King County, to be one of the few things in this country that are reliable, well-managed, with devoted personnel who are willing to supply almost any book that one can request, in a clean and comfortable facility, with adequate parking

and excellent programs and computer availability. When my family, friends, neighbors and I voted for the library bond issue we did not know about the thought of relocation of the recently refurbished facility at 320th Street. I don't recall any statement about such an idea in the printed details of the bond issue. The current location is in a less congested area of many homes and apartments with easy access on foot, bike, car, or bus. Why would the Trustees even consider moving the library to a high density traffic area? It would not be a convenience to commuters nor to children walking there but would add more congestion to an already over-burdened area. In fact, I cannot think of one advantage to such a move. Please reconsider this idea and instead, use the money in a more responsible way. I would like to hear the rationale of this proposal.

- ◆ I would like to voice my support for keeping the 320th Library at the present location rather than moving it to the Transit Center. Our family has resided in Federal Way for 20 years and has been a frequent user of the library services both at the 320th Street facility and at the Regional Library. I believe that a library should first and foremost be a place where students and the public can go to do research, read up-to-date magazines and newspapers and meet other members of the community. I have had the opportunity to do all of the above, as have my children. I strongly believe that relocating the library would be a mistake because primarily it would not be in a user friendly location. People want services in their neighborhoods and the Transit Center is not a community neighborhood, but rather a business environment. It would alter the whole usage profile of the facility and very likely decrease the circulation numbers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
- ◆ I would like to express my concern over the relocation of the present 320th Library facilities to the downtown core area of Federal Way. This is not what I voted for as a taxpayer and a long time resident in Federal Way. What bothers me is the lack of logic to the decision. Right now you have a library with plenty of room for expansion including the possibility of developing a second floor at this time or in the future. If you put it downtown the plan is to put condos above it. That would virtually eliminate future development of the library at that location. Therefore, you will have built into the project its future obsolescence. You will also be taking away parking spaces that could otherwise be used for commercial retail use. The City of Federal Way's own study states that the downtown core development, with planned condos and town houses, will be primarily occupied by empty nesters, either young people without children or those where the children have grown and are gone. Thus in creating a facility like this, along with the desire to cater to commuters using the Sound Transit, you are by design essentially making this an adult-only library. The argument that the present library is too close to the Regional Library is ridiculous. The proposed location is blocks, not miles, from the new site you are planning on developing. The current location has easy access by neighborhoods, where there are hundreds of homes and less traveled streets. This will not change over the next 30 years. The City's downtown core plan is to primarily develop it for commercial purposes, and thus making this area more congested, and I feel a less desirable place for the community as a whole to want to go to. It is my hope that you will reconsider your plan to relocate the 320th Library. I sincerely believe that leaving it where it is will provide a facility that will serve both the present and the planned for future residents of Federal Way. Please reconsider your actions.
- ◆ I am opposed to moving the 320th Library to the Sound Transit Garage (STG). The STG was rammed down the citizen's throats. The library relocation is beginning to take on the same flavor. In fact, the more I hear about the citizen's desire to keep it where it is, the more the coercion to move it smacks of moving the library simply to

retroactively justify the 'need' for the STG to have been forced upon us. The citizenry is beginning to feel that our voices and opinions count for little. This is especially true when those opinions and desires run opposite the Council's grand plans to stoke the illusion of building a finer downtown area. Just a hint...you want more activity 'downtown'? Give us more police officers! Have enough of them to work on the snowballing gang problem and target that blight! Don't spend money on 'dessert' (parks, ethnic festivals) when you haven't used our money to provide a nourishing meal (police/safety issues). Deal with the taxation problems faced by small business owners so they won't go fleeing our community. As for the Library—quit pushing to spend money unnecessarily. Expand the current location. My children can ride their bikes there in safety. They will not be allowed to go to what will amount to a Mecca for unsavory types—a parking garage.

- ◆ We encourage you not to move the Federal Way 320th Library to the transit location, but to expand it at its current location. The transit location would have security and parking situations that would diminish its availability. The bond levy for this library was based upon its expansion at its current location and we hope the board would honor this vote of the community.
- ◆ We are unable to attend the April 12 meeting. We feel strongly that the present library should be enlarged and updated at its site on 320th Street. It has served the community well. Please do not move it to the transit center area where it will be necessary to have a car to get to it.
- ◆ We are sorry that we will not be able to attend the meeting regarding the relocation of the 320th Street Library as we are going to be out-of-town. We would like the 320th Street Library to stay in its present location and expand as needed. Why change something that has worked as a center of our community for so many years? It seems to me that the library is much closer to traditional single and multi-family housing in its current location. I would say that it is also a much safer place for a child to bike or walk to than being located near a transit center. I don't understand why the original plan to expand the 320th location was changed to building a new library near a transit center. It makes no sense at all. Even though we have an Auburn address, we live closer to Federal Way and prefer to do nearly everything in that city.
- ◆ In the 2004 bond issue, I voted to replace, NOT RELOCATE the 320th library. I am opposed to the 320th library being moved to a site adjacent to the new parking garage. I home school my children and I do not think the transit center site will be safe for them. My children and I need the sense of community that we have in the present 320th library. Our children will have to cross a busy highway and negotiate heavy traffic by the new transit center. We home schooling parents are terribly concerned about this. The library, in its current location, is an invaluable resource. I am able to take advantage of the many enriching programs the library offers for my children and can use the guidance of librarians and reference books with ease.

Moreover:

- From my understanding, we (the taxpayers) just paid to have the parking lot redone and to move now would either be gross mismanagement of funds or lack of planning on the part of the City Council and the KCLS (or both), or worse. Either option would represent a failure.
- The current site is owned by the library and is large enough for future expansion.
- One of the greatest, ongoing benefits of residing in Federal Way is the accessibility of the 320th Branch Library.

- The 320th library deserves to be recognized and improved as a significant community facility on its own, not as "side dressing" to the necessary commercial/business/transportation hub being developed at the Transit site.
- The land adjacent to the parking garage would be better used by businesses which generate taxes for the city.
- ◆ I have young children and cannot attend the upcoming KCLS community forum on April 12, the City Council meeting on April 18 and the KCLS Board of Trustees meeting on April 25, but I hope you will take this letter into consideration when you make your decision. Please help us keep the library where it has been for more than 30 years.
- ◆ Nothing has changed since I sent you the original email below, on behalf of voters in this household - except that the noise level against your proposal has greatly increased in the public at large. Based on articles and letters to the editor in the Mirror, you have somewhat arrogantly tried to pretend like the large opposition doesn't exist - but it's getting more difficult now, isn't it? In the latest article, you made it clear that: the library board makes the final decision; you want to hear from the Federal Way City Council because you give weight to their opinions; and you also made it very clear (again the height of arrogance) that you have buried in the fine print of the bond we voted, some language that you don't have to honor what you presented to the voters, and can use your lack of judgment to do whatever else you please, essentially.

So now, we know your personal opinion and where you stand, if I read the paper correctly. I would like to remind you how few of them there are on the Council - and how many of us voters there are, in comparison. I was not asked to vote on giving KCLS a blank check to do as they pleased. I would never have accepted such a proposal or voted in favor of it. I was asked to approve remodeling and improving the existing library, where it sits. This is a very bad idea that you are proposing, to move the library downtown. If you persist in this foolishness, the first child injured trying to get there - or who disappears because it will be so easy to be snatched in that area, with get away easy from the garage with no security - will be on your head, and I would hope and expect that you will be sued, and held accountable for the bait and switch, and the irresponsible decision. The only certain promise I can make to you is that if you try, it will be a long, long time before you ever fool us into supporting a library proposal, ever again. I have never voted against a library proposal in my life - and that is over 30 years of voting. You may earn yourself the distinction of causing all voters in this household to totally reject each and every proposal KCLS puts forward in the future, period. The reason would be, because whatever you propose can no longer be trusted, because your word has no value. I will be sending a copy of this email to each member of the Federal Way City Council. Anyone on the Council who supports this move of the library will also never get a vote again from this household for reelection. I am tired of government officials in any and all forms who do not know how to keep their word on anything. The lack of integrity and ethics being displayed in this whole machination is beyond belief.

- ◆ Please keep the 320th Street Library in its present location on 320th Street. It serves the city & neighborhood well. Relocating the library would be a waste of my "investment" as a tax payer & resident of Federal Way.
- ◆ Please consider this e-mail a vote to not relocate the 320th Street Library. I am a senior and use the facility often and attend a Book Discussion Group there. It is one of the best discussion groups in the community and it would not be available to me

and the others if the library is moved. I believe that expansion of the facility is the best answer; not the building of a new library by the transit center.

- ◆ Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion to not move the proposed library from its current 320th location. We and the majority of those attending felt the presentation was too oriented toward making the move. The moderators comments and questions seeking to find those who were in favor of moving to the metro location seemed very biased. Judge Eadie, when I was on the Guardian Certification Board with you, I do not feel you would have allowed that to occur. I hope all of you will review the scribes transcript, because the comments written on the easel pages may be misinterpreted. If the Board is truly interested in the desires of the individuals, instead of the master plan by the City of Federal Way and Metro, the library will remain at the 320th site.
- ◆ You can serve us better by not even considering any more from the current location. One location cannot serve everyone fairly, but this location with family orientation will remain serving the most, especially young people. The transit garage should never have been located where it is, much less a library. Who wants to drive their kids to a high traffic, dangerous area?
- ◆ I support the relocation of the South 320th Street library to a site adjacent to the Federal Way Transit Center. I don't really understand the objections of the vocal group that attended the recent public meeting. Their objections of student preference and transients sound like straw dogs to keep the library close to their homes. In my view, the downtown site has many advantages:
 - The best possible transit access, a boon for students.
 - KCLS builds beautiful buildings and we need better architecture downtown
 - The area around the Transit Center is in dire need of redevelopment.
 - The "super block" site near the Transit Center is a largely dead space and needs attractions for pedestrian traffic.
 - Hopefully, the library traffic will spin off some other redevelopment, a lost opportunity at the current site.
- ◆ This e-mail is to offer my "yes" on moving the current 320th library to a site near the new transit center. I would also favor having 3-5 floors of condos above the library. What an ideal location: easy to get to, convenient and with some added green space a very appealing opportunity for the City of Federal Way. For those who disagree with this proposal I suggest they travel to the City of Puyallup and see how they have combined uses in their downtown core that are appealing and successful.
- ◆ Sorry that I cannot be at the Wednesday library hearing meeting, but I do want my input to be in favor of moving it to the transit center location. What a boon that would be for Federal Way. Most of the people I know are in favor of the transit location - makes sense in terms of the City Center for Federal Way. The current location is difficult to access and the parking is very poor. In terms of traffic and danger, I believe 320th street location is not the best. I would invite people to visit the city of Puyallup to see how they have centrally located services in a very attractive and user friendly manner. I even like the idea of having condos above the library, etc. What a great location that would be for people. Having green space would be very inviting and would be an excellent location for the Farmers' Market. The transit facility is very attractive and I like the sculpture in the round-about. One positive thing we can say that it is heartening to know that so many people do take an interest in the library location even though there are differing opinions.

- ◆ We are opposed to relocation of the 320th Library. The current site is easily accessible by walking, bicycling, bus and auto. This branch serves many families, children and youth who walk to the library. It is family-friendly and in an area of many single and multi-family residences and we believe this is the community which this library branch is intended to serve and should serve. We feel that not only would use decrease at the proposed new location, but there would be numerous problems associated with it. Some of our concerns are safety, parking and traffic congestion. It will be much more difficult to access the library due to the increased traffic in that area. It would not be a location convenient for those who currently walk to the library. The library would not be open when commuters arrive at the Transit Center in the morning and it is doubtful that many would stop at the library on their way home. Another major concern is the apparent lack of good stewardship of taxpayer funds by the KCLS Board. We voted on library bonds which are to be used to remodel and enlarge the 320th branch on the current site. It now appears we were misled about the intended use of that tax money since we are aware that there was discussion of relocating the library prior to the bond election. It seems to us there are some questions about the intent and accountability of this non-elected board. The present site has room for expansion of the building and parking. Why spend money for another location and new building in an area that is more suited for businesses that will generate tax revenue for the city. There are currently many vacant buildings in Federal Way. Would the 320th Library become another one of those? If another library facility is needed, it would seem that east of I-5 and south of 320th would be the appropriate area for expansion. As we see it, there are far more negatives than positives in relocating the 320th Library; therefore, we are opposed to the relocation of this facility.

- ◆ I urge you to keep our library a neighborhood library. I can see how financially it might be an advantage to the City of Federal Way to incorporate a county library into the business center, but this is not about city finances. This is about books and people, about nearby resources for families, about a place where our hearts already are. We would lose so very much if you decide to move the 320th library.