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Seattle Design Commissioners
c/o Michael Jenkins
Executive Director – Seattle Design Commission
City of Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development
600 – 4th Avenue, 5th Floor - P.O. Box 94788
Seattle, WA 98124-7088

Dear Commissioners,

After attending your meeting on June 6th, I'd like to comment on both the process and outcome.

- The acoustics of the room for seniors were extremely poor. It was very hard to understand the speakers without a microphone. To me it introduced the thought that this committee was not sensitive to seniors where some hearing impairment is almost universal.
- I feel that the criteria that were used to deny the request for a sky bridge across 8th Avenue as part of the Skyline campus plan were seriously flawed. There was no consideration for those with disabilities – mobility, hearing, sight and balance. Why are there no items to address disabilities and safety in your criteria for a sky bridge?
- Basically your decision forces those with walkers and wheelchairs to find a way to cross 8th Avenue which is heavily congested with cars – inherently unsafe for those individuals.



Typical rush hour on 8th Avenue

In my opinion it is unconscionable to expose those with disabilities to an unsafe street crossing when navigating within our campus – something your decision has done. Those with disabilities have long term care rights protecting them from unsafe situations. These rights have been ignored.

I don't think that any member of your committee visited this site to see how unsafe it currently is. The future bodes worse. First Hill is the densest residential neighborhood in Seattle and the fastest growing area on the west coast. The present population of 10,000 is projected to increase in 2024 to 17-20,000.

My prediction is that you may need to revisit your decision after the first serious injury or death occurs due to the lack of a sky bridge. Such a tragedy is likely to happen sooner rather than later with your decision which does not take safety and disabilities into account.

Sincerely yours,

James B. deMaine, MD
Skyline Resident
Pulmonary/Critical Care Group Health, Retired
Former Certified King County Long Term Care Ombudsman