

BRIDGING THE GAP: USING COMPLEX DOCUMENTS FOR GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

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Background

Environmental impact statements (EIS), are required by NEPA before any project is started to assess the impact said project will have. They contain a great deal of pertinent information that isn't shared properly/ made accessible to local communities

Internship and Methods

- worked with seattle subway to advocate for more expansive link light rail systems in the greater seattle area (fig. 1)
- Wrote an EIS for the Aurora Corridor
- Observed a difference between public info. and private info

Significance

- Set a precedent for sharing environmental information
- Environmental knowledge should be more accessible

Results

- There is a disconnect between federal and public environmental knowledge
- More digestible language needs to be used to grab attention and provide information (fig. 2)
- Easily dispensable syntheses of EIS summaries, spaces to speak about results and accessible versions are ways to use EIS as communication tools



(Fig. 1) Rachel Glessner tabling for Seattle Subway at Capitol Hill Pride, advocating for better transit systems throughout the Seattle community.

Thesis

Environmental impacts statements (EIS) need to be made more accessible and understandable in order to become more effective environmental communication tools

Environmental Factor:	No action plan	Alternative action 1:
Water Quality	-pollution from road runoff	-slight decrease in road runoff
Air Quality	-excess heat -traffic pollution	~15% decrease in traffic reducing pollution

(Fig. 2) Chart excerpt from EIS of environmental factors and how they change the surrounding environment, could be used in an infographic



(Fig. 3) Seattle Subway vision map of future transit systems in Seattle

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