

FHWA-WA-EIS-04-01-DS2

ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

2010 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

Submitted pursuant to:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(c))
and

the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)(Ch. 43.21 C RCW)
and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act,
(49 U.S.C. 303(c))

by the

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

and

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

and

CITY OF SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Abstract

The existing Alaskan Way Viaduct (State Route [SR] 99) was damaged in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, is at the end of its useful life, and must be replaced. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and City of Seattle plan to replace the existing facility to provide a structure capable of withstanding earthquakes and to ensure that people and goods can safely and efficiently travel within and through the project corridor. The SR 99 corridor provides vital transportation connections in to and through downtown Seattle, as well as between various other regional destinations. Failure of the viaduct would create severe hardships for the city and region and could possibly cause injury or death.

The March 2004 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed five Build Alternatives and a No Build Alternative for their potential effects on the human and natural environment. The five alternatives evaluated were called the Rebuild, Aerial, Tunnel, Bypass Tunnel, and Surface Alternatives. Based on information presented in the Draft EIS, public comments, and further study and design, the project partners reduced the number of alternatives from five to two in late 2004. The two alternatives, the Tunnel and Elevated Structure, were then evaluated in the 2006 Supplemental Draft EIS document.

This Supplemental Draft EIS provides additional information available since the 2004 Draft EIS and 2006 Supplemental Draft EIS were published and new information analyzing the Bored Tunnel Alternative.



Title VI

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A Federal agency may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 USC §139(l), indicating that one or more federal agencies have taken final action on permits, licenses, or approvals for a transportation project. If such notice is published, claims seeking judicial review of those federal agency actions will be barred unless such claims are filed within 180 days after the date of publication of the notice, or within such shorter time period as is specified in the federal laws pursuant to which judicial review of the federal agency action is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.

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Lead for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Date of Approval

Megan White
Director of Environmental Services
Washington State Department of Transportation
Lead for State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

9/24/2010

Date of Approval

Richard Conlin
City Council President
for the City of Seattle

September 23, 2010

Date of Approval



FACT SHEET

Project Name:

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project

Project Description:

The Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project proposes to replace SR 99 between S. Royal Brougham Way and Roy Street with a facility that has improved earthquake resistance. Damage sustained by the viaduct during the February 2001 Nisqually earthquake compromised its structural integrity. Adding to these concerns, the structure was originally designed and built to last approximately 50 years, and is now nearing the end of its serviceable life span. This past damage, along with the age, design, and location of the existing viaduct, makes it vulnerable to future strong earthquakes, and damage from these quakes could make the structure unusable.

The SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct and Interstate 5 are the primary north-south limited access routes through downtown Seattle, making the Alaskan Way Viaduct a vital link in the region’s highway and freight mobility system, and thus critical to the region’s economy. Together with the transit system, light rail and local streets, SR 99 serves regional and local needs.

This Supplemental Draft EIS analyzes the effects of a Bored Tunnel Alternative and compares the effects with the Cut-and-Cover Tunnel and Elevated Structure Alternatives. The No Build Alternative is evaluated to provide baseline information.

Proponent:

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SEPA Lead Agency

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Comment Period

A comment period will begin on the date the notice is published in the Federal Register. Notice is anticipated to take place on October 29, 2010, and the comment period is expected to run through December 13, 2010.

Review Comments and Contact Information

All written comments should be sent to:

In Writing: Angela Freudenstein, AWV Environmental Manager
AWV Project Office (Wells Fargo Building)
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104 - 4019

Comments can also be sent by e-mail to:

E-mail: awv2010SDEIScomments@wsdot.wa.gov

Public Hearings

Public hearings to provide information and accept comments on the 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS will be held on:

November 16, 2010: West Seattle
Madison Middle School
3429 45th Avenue SW
Seattle, WA 98116
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

November 17, 2010: Ballard
Ballard High School
1418 NW 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98107
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

November 18, 2010: Downtown
Plymouth Church
1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Document Availability

The 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS is available online at:
http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/
It is also available on CD-ROM by contacting the AWV Office at:

Angela Freudenstein, AWV Environmental Manager
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Printed copies of this Supplemental Draft EIS and related appendices (discipline reports) are available at City of Seattle public libraries and Neighborhood Service Centers (see the Distribution List on page 254). These documents are also available for purchase at the:

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project Office
999 Third Avenue, Reception desk on the 22nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104 - 4019

CDs and Executive Summaries are available at no charge. Prices for printed volumes are as follows:

2010 Supplemental Draft EIS (17 x 11)	\$25
Technical Memorandum and Discipline Report Appendix volumes	\$75
Complete document set	\$100

FACT SHEET

continued

Permits, Approvals, and Consultations

Federal

- **National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation and Marine Mammal Protection Act Consultation
- **National Marine Fisheries Service** – Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation
- **Federal Highway Administration**, with concurrence from the **Washington Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation** – National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Section 106)

State

- **Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation** – National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultation
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Model Toxics Control Act, Removal of Underground Storage Tanks
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Construction Stormwater General Permit
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Consistency Certification
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Underground Injection Control Registration
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Notice of Intent for Installing, Modifying, or Removing Piezometers
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Notice of Intent for Installing, Modifying, or Removing Wells

- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Chemical Treatment Letter of Approval

Local

- **King County** – Industrial Wastewater Discharge Approval
- **Seattle City Light** – Clearance Permits
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Master Use Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Shoreline Substantial Development Permit/Conditional Use Permit and/or Variance
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Grading Permit¹
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Building Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Demolition Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Side Sewer Permit
- **Seattle Department of Transportation** – Street Use Permit
- **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Pioneer Square Preservation Board** – Pioneer Square Historic District Approval
- **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Pike Place Market Historic District Commission** – Pike Place Market Historic District Approval
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Major Public Project Construction Variance/Temporary Variance
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Removal or Abandonment of Underground Storage Tanks

Other Seattle Permits/Approvals

- Mechanical Permit
- Electrical Permit
- Sign Permit
- Elevator Permit
- Fire Alarm Permit

Other Permits/Approvals

- **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency** – Clean Air Act, Air Quality Conformity Review
- **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency** – Notice of Intent for demolition activities and Notice of Construction for Constructing a Concrete Batch Plant
- **Puget Sound Energy (Bonneville Power Administration)** – Electrical Transmission Outage Request
- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)** – Construction and Maintenance Agreement

Authors and Principal Contributors

Please see the List of Preparers on pages 251.

Date of Issue of 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS

October 29, 2010

Subsequent Environmental Review

The public comment period for this 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS will end on December 13, 2010. The lead agencies will respond to comments on the 2004 Draft EIS, 2006 Supplemental Draft EIS, and this 2010 document in the Final EIS. Publication of a Final EIS is expected in 2011. Following publication of the Final EIS, a Record of Decision will be issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

¹ The City and WSDOT are exempt from certain permits under some conditions. Even though this grading work would be exempt, the City would still perform a project review to ensure that the project meets City requirements for grading activities.

ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

2010 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f)



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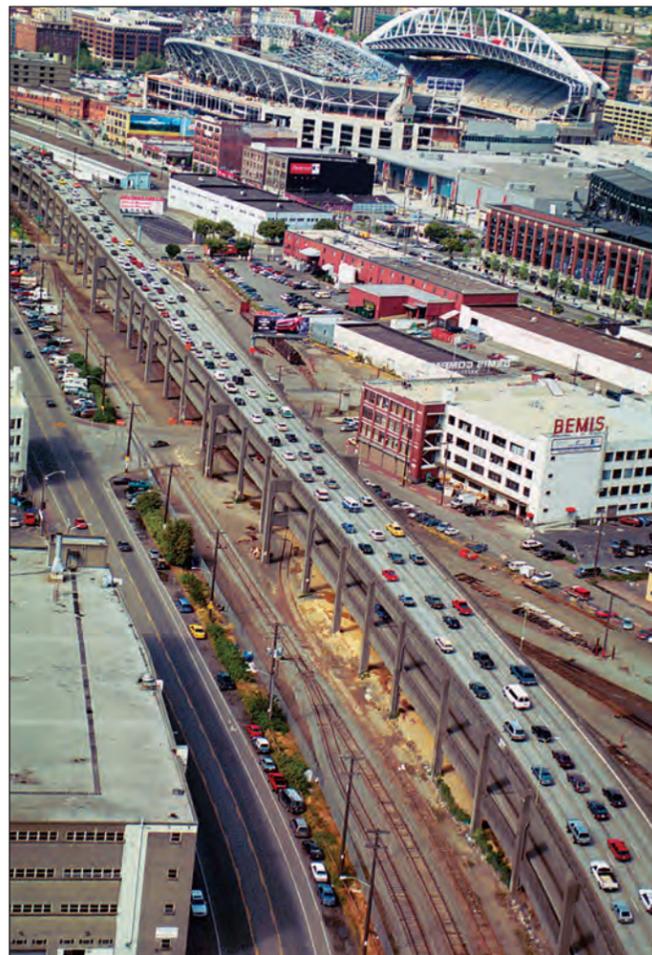
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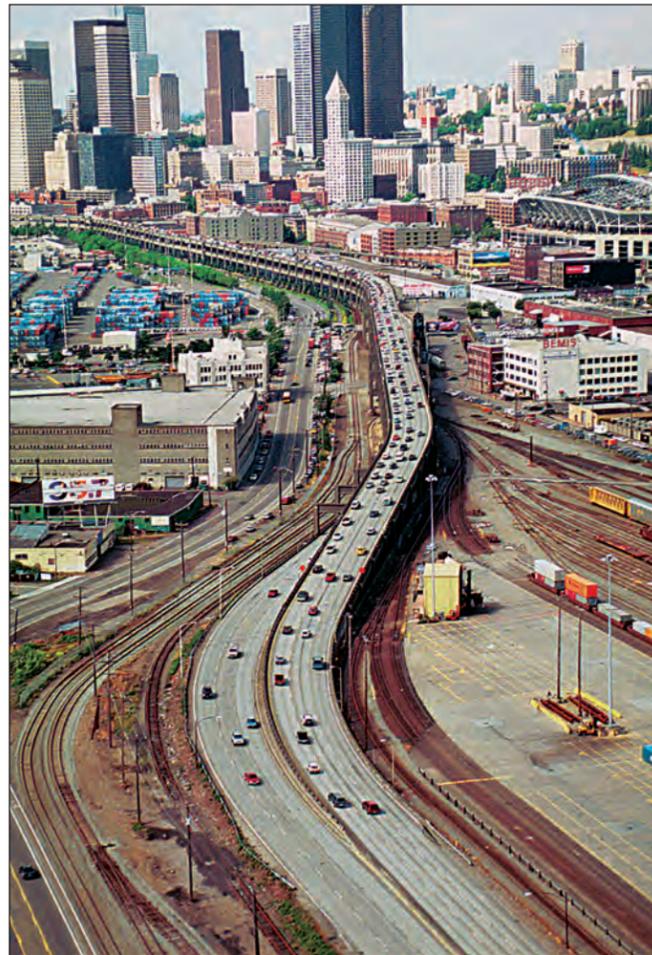
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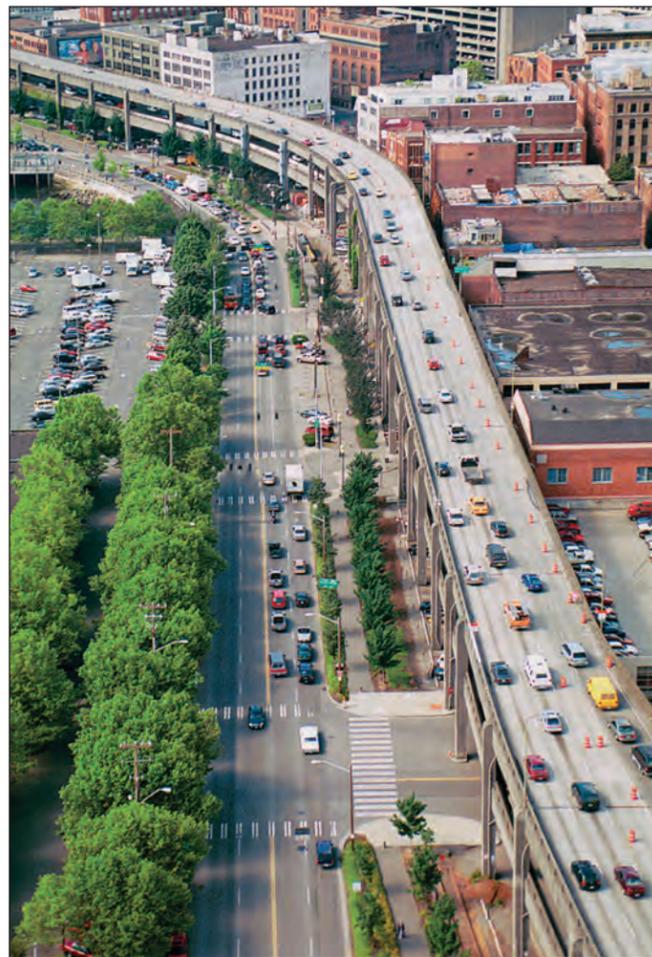
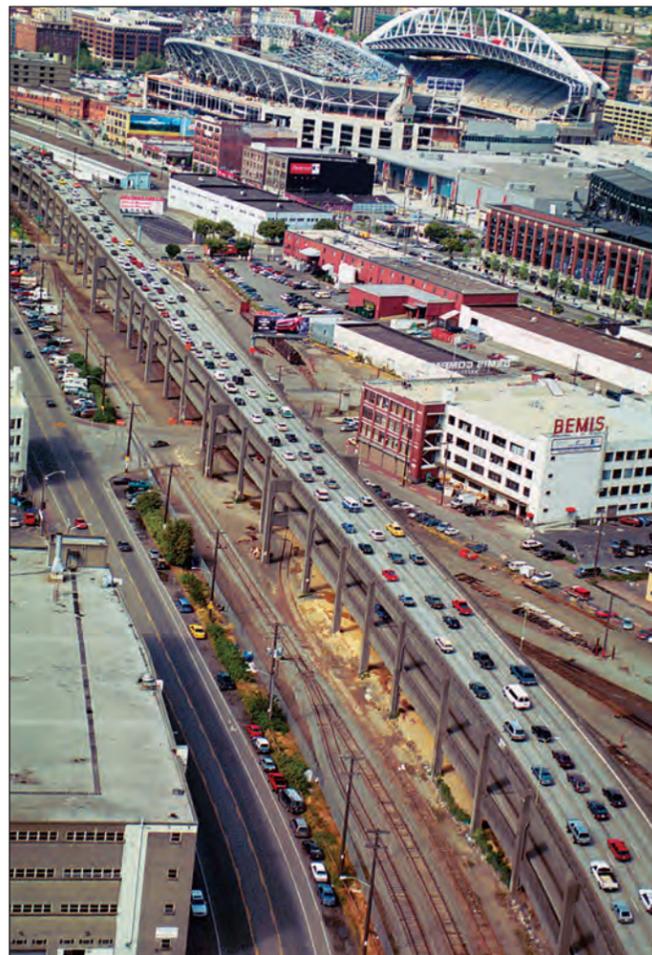


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IN MEMORIAM...

This document is dedicated to the memories of Maureen Sullivan (WSDOT), Roland Benito (WSDOT), and James Leonard (FHWA). Their legacy of dedication and contributions to the delivery of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program is immeasurable. We will carry forward their spirit and commitment towards delivery of this public safety project in their memories.