

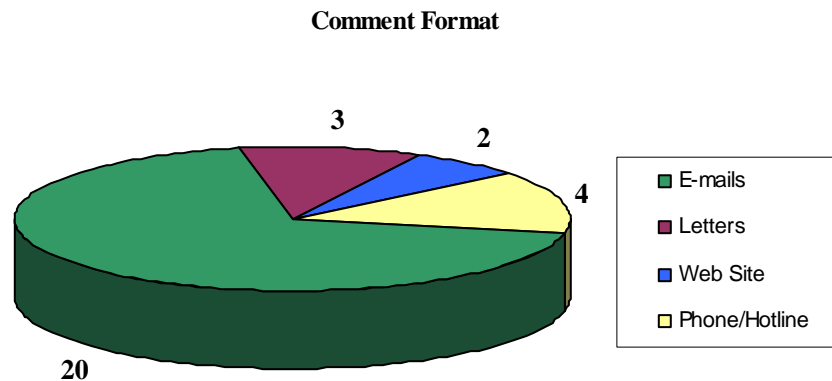
# The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program

## OCTOBER 2007 COMMENT SUMMARY

### Introduction

In October, 29 comments were submitted to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program (AWVSRP) team.

### Comment Format and Origin



This month's comment totals include four pieces of correspondence to the Governor and other elected officials that were referred to the program office. Comments and questions received at outreach events are summarized separately.

### Comment Categories

There are six comment categories: transportation, design/construction, economic, transit, environmental/public safety and structures/locations. Each comment submitted is categorized by the content of the message. Please note that some comments fit into more than one category, while others do not fit into any of the categories. The bullet points below are quotes that were extracted from the October comments.

#### Transportation:

This group includes categories such as traffic, connections/circulation, pedestrians, and bicycles. In October, there were three comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- What traffic alternatives and what alternative routes will be used during the eventual demolition of the viaduct?
- I support the replacement option that has the least impact on traffic.

**Design/Construction:**

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In October, there were 10 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- The majority of Seattleites want neither a tunnel nor surface road to replace the existing viaduct, but rather some sort of elevated structure, be it a retrofit or a rebuild.
- The most preferred Alaskan Way Viaduct solution would be a single level expressway consisting of six lanes, three going in opposite directions connecting the King Street improvements to Lenora Street and continuing through the Battery Street Tunnel.
- Why is there going to be any replacement work on the viaduct? Didn't we vote "no" on replacing the viaduct?
- What is the construction schedule for when the central part of the viaduct will come down?

**Economic:**

This group includes categories such as cost, funding, property value/acquisition, and tolls. In October, there were four comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- Is it true that we lose federal funds if we do not use them?
- How is it possible that China and Switzerland can build so big, so fast, and so inexpensively? On a cost per mile basis, Switzerland's Gotthard Base Tunnel is far cheaper and will be built faster than any Alaskan Way Viaduct tunnel replacement.

**Transit:**

This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In October, there was one comment in this category. Below is a sampling of the comment.

- With the exception of transit buses, it seems the weight limit on the viaduct is 10,000 lbs. Is this true?

**Environmental/Public Safety:**

This group includes categories like noise issues, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. In October, there were four comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- To expedite safety considerations, please do the "rebuild in place" with quieter pavement and support columns decorated as totem poles to improve the visual quality for residents and visitors.
- It has been years since the earthquake. When is the viaduct situation going to be taken care of?

**Structures/Location:**

This group includes categories like historic structures and districts, portals, stadiums and South Lake Union. In October, there were zero comments in this category.

## **Outreach Events**

Outreach events provide another way to gather feedback about the program. The feedback from these events is summarized separately and summaries are available upon request. Outreach events attended in October included:

### **Site Tour**

The program hosted a public site tour of the viaduct on October 13 while the viaduct was closed for a semi-annual inspection. The event also featured remarks by AWVSRP director Ron Paananen and WSDOT secretary of transportation Paula Hammond. Approximately 60 people attended the site tour and speaking program.

### **Community Briefings**

The program attended six community briefings in October.

- October 3: Downtown Seattle Association
- October 9: Pioneer Square Community Association
- October 9: ASM International, Puget Sound Chapter
- October 10: Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board
- October 11: Working Families for an Elevated Solution
- October 23: North Seattle Industrial Association

### **Fairs, Festivals and Farmers Markets**

The program attended one festival in October, and received approximately 90 visitors.

- October 24: Starbucks Transportation Fair