

Alaskan Way Viaduct

Central waterfront scoping open house summary

Sept. 11, 16 and 18, 2008

Meeting overview

WSDOT, King County and the City of Seattle hosted three public scoping open houses from Sept. 11-18, 2008. The downtown open house was held at the Plymouth Congregational Church on Sept. 11, 2008. On Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008, an open house in West Seattle was held at the Fauntleroy Church. The third open house took place in Ballard on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at Leif Erickson Hall. The purpose of these meetings was to update the public on the process to determine a solution for the central waterfront portion of the viaduct and solicit feedback regarding the eight scenarios moving forward for further evaluation. For each of the eight scenarios, attendees learned about the options for SR 99, I-5, surface streets, transit and other improvements used in the scenarios to move people and goods.

This series of meetings also served as public scoping meetings for the NEPA process. Scoping is the public process for determining the environmental issues that should be addressed in the proposed project's environmental document.

Advertisement

Several methods were used to advertise the open houses:

- An announcement in two Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) program e-mail updates to more than 4,500 subscribers.
- A notice on the AWV program Web site (www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct).
- An e-mail to elected leaders and key stakeholders, including Seattle-area state legislators, City Council members, King County Council members, and Stakeholder Advisory Committee members.
- Note cards for team members and Stakeholder Advisory Committee members to distribute prior to the meeting dates. The cards were also be available at Seattle City Hall and other public buildings
- A notice to the community calendars of citywide and community newspapers.
- Posters and note cards distributed in public buildings and popular businesses in the West Seattle, Pioneer Square, SODO, downtown, University District, Bainbridge Island, Capitol Hill, First Hill and Ballard neighborhoods.
- Media advisory to print, radio and television reporters.

Format of the open houses

After signing in at the registration table, attendees received a meeting guide and a handout that summarized key aspects of each proposed scenario. The meeting guide described each of the display stations. Attendees viewed a short, narrated presentation that gave an overview of the program and provided basic information about the process. Though attendees could visit the stations in any order, a logical progression was suggested.

- Station 1: Introductory video, new project area map, guiding principles
- Station 2: Surface street scenarios
- Station 3: Elevated scenarios
- Station 4: Below-ground scenarios
- Station 5: Project scoping and schedule

Attendees were given the opportunity to provide verbal comments to a court reporter.

- 7 people made verbal comments at the downtown open house.
- 10 people made verbal comments at the West Seattle open house.
- 3 people commented at the Ballard open house.

Attendees were also encouraged to complete comment forms, which included questions regarding the scenarios presented, the central waterfront process and issues that should be considered in the central waterfront environmental document.

Attendance

Approximately 50 people attended the downtown open house, 110 people attended the West Seattle open house, and 40 people attended the open house held in the Ballard neighborhood.

Next steps

Comments from the public scoping open houses were distributed to the program's environmental team. They were also presented to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee at their Sept. 25, 2008, meeting. The comments that were received will also be shared with program leadership, the Interagency Working Group, and the Project Oversight Committee.