



Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

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AUG 11 2008

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August 5, 2008

Ms. Angela Freudenstein,  
WSDOT  
999 Third Ave  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Environmental Assessment, Alaska Way Viaduct Replacement, Holgate to King St.

Dear Ms. Freudenstein,

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) has been briefed by members of the South Viaduct Replacement team and would like to make the following comments related to the environmental assessment.

The SBAB is encouraged to see plans developed that are inclusive of bicycle facilities and that will accommodate both on and off street bicyclists upon project completion. The Board would like to see the environmental assessment recognize the importance of this corridor as currently being the safest, and primary connection for bicyclists from the West Seattle, White Center, Arbor Heights and Burien areas to the downtown central business district. This corridor also serves as a key conduit to allow bicyclists access to other neighborhoods and communities in the region and should be reflected in your assessment accordingly.

On page 93, the impact on bicyclists during construction is outlined and a detour that follows that of other traffic directed towards 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South is suggested. The Board encourages an examination of the feasibility of construction detours specific to the unique needs of bicyclists as distinct from motorists. Such recommended detours may represent a greater obstacle to bicycle traffic and plans should take this into consideration in the interest of maximized safety and mobility. Meaningful communication during construction specific to bicyclists in the form of bicycle specific signs and email messages to the bicycling community will go a long way to ensure safety and predictability.

The environmental assessment discusses potential mitigation and construction impacts related to bicyclists, but does not recognize the magnitude of these impacts in any way. A recognition of the magnitude of impacts and the importance of this corridor to the mobility of Seattle's bicyclists would make for a more complete assessment.

Thank you;

Sean Ardussi  
Chair, Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

A-004-001

A-004-002

A-004-003

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.  
- City Council Resolution 25534

A-004-001

A paragraph has been added to Section 4.2.5 of Appendix F, Transportation Discipline Report. It states that "the SR 99/E. Marginal Way corridor in the project area is recognized as being the safest and primary connection for bicyclists from the West Seattle, White Center, Arbor Heights, and Burien areas to the downtown central business district. This corridor also serves as a key conduit to allow bicyclists access to other neighborhoods and communities in the region." Revisions to the text are included in Attachment 1, Errata to the EA and Discipline Reports.

A-004-002

Because of the limited space available for construction, it may not be possible to provide detour routes specific to bicycles during all stages of construction. Suggested bicycle routes will be identified, and the unique safety requirements of bicycles will be taken into account. Updated information on the project will be provided by newsletters and on the project's website throughout construction.

A-004-003

We understand the importance of this area as a bicycle route, as demonstrated by our planning for new and improved bicycle facilities and planning for bicycle use during construction.