

The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program

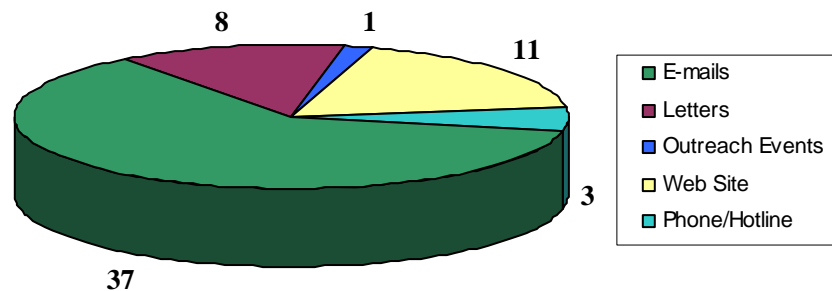
AUGUST 2007 COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

In August, 60 comments were submitted to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program team.

Comment Format and Origin

Comment Format



This month's comment totals include 23 pieces of correspondence to the governor and the Transportation Commission that were referred to the program office for response. "Outreach events" refer to comments that required follow-up after the event; 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 August comments.

Transportation:

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

- The viaduct replacement project will induce drivers to seek transportation alternatives, but under current conditions, bicycling is not practical for many

of them. Bicycle improvements via the Transit Enhancements and Capital Improvements action, such as a network of bike lanes, would give commuters and residents access to this efficient and non-congesting option during a time of higher-than-average pressure on the downtown grid.

- By advance planning, increased public transportation, increasing traffic light times, etc., we were able to significantly reduce the traffic on I-5. During the demolition of the viaduct, we will have to do the same thing. I believe that as folks get used to the absence of the viaduct and use alternative routes, transportation patterns will develop that can become permanent without a new viaduct.

Design/Construction:

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In August, there were 37 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- I am writing to express my profound support for the rebuilding of the viaduct. The viaduct is what distinguishes Seattle from other major waterfront cities and is the most beautiful route through a city that I have ever seen!
- Why can't we roof an earthquake-proof elevated with a park?
- You people that are still pushing for a tunnel to replace the viaduct should read about these problems with the Boston tunnel which has been a disaster.
- Now that we will spend billions to handle the whole problem, why not study the use of suspension support for the central area? This type of construction is illustrated in the enclosed photo of a section of the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge.
- Delay some moving forward projects. Why spend public funds designing and constructing projects that may not be part of the final overall viaduct replacement solution?

Economic:

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

- Would the people living in Snohomish County have to pay?
- There are many precedents for ill-advised investments, including the money spent on the Kingdome roof shortly before it was torn down and the rails built in the bus tunnel that were not usable for our light rail system. It would be a shame to replay such mistakes when it comes to the viaduct.

Transit:

This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In August, there were no comments in this category.

Environmental/Public Safety:

This group includes categories like noise, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. In August, there were 23 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the

comments.

- Due to the recent bridge collapse in Minneapolis, I was wondering if the inspectors of the viaduct in Seattle have taken into consideration the excess wear and traffic on the viaduct due to the I-5 closure? Can the Alaskan Way Viaduct withstand the excess wear, weight, and traffic?
- I am writing to address yesterday's collapse of a major thoroughfare bridge in Minneapolis. Yesterday's disaster foreshadows what will at some point occur to the viaduct, either because of a natural disaster or structural defect. We can no longer afford the luxury of discussing this; someone must make a decision and act on it.
- For the last few years I have been hesitant to drive the Alaskan Way Viaduct, due to the bridge damage. I implore you to tear down the viaduct and rebuild the highway providing a safe travel foundation for all of the residents and visitors of Washington State.
- Please double your effort to secure a replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct with either a tunnel or new bridge. Yesterday, the nation learned a lesson of what will happen if we wait too long.

Structures/Location:

This group includes categories like historic structures and districts, portals, stadiums and South Lake Union. In August, there were no 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; summaries are available upon request. Outreach events attended in August include:

Open House

The program hosted an open house in Pioneer Square on August 22. Approximately 75 people attended.

Community Briefings

The program attended four community briefings in August.

- August 9: Port Commission
- August 14: Feet First
- August 15: Bread of Life Mission
- August 21: DSA Viaduct Task Force

Fairs, Festivals and Farmers Markets

The program attended eight events in August, and received approximately 500 visitors.

- August 3: Boeing Safety Fair
- August 3-4: Magnolia Summer Festival
- August 11: Magnolia Farmers Market
- August 12: West Seattle Farmers Market
- August 18-19: Central Area Community Festival

- August 26: Broadway Farmers Market
- August 29: Columbia City Farmers Market
- August 30: Queen Anne Farmers Market