



Improving access for West Seattle and South King County

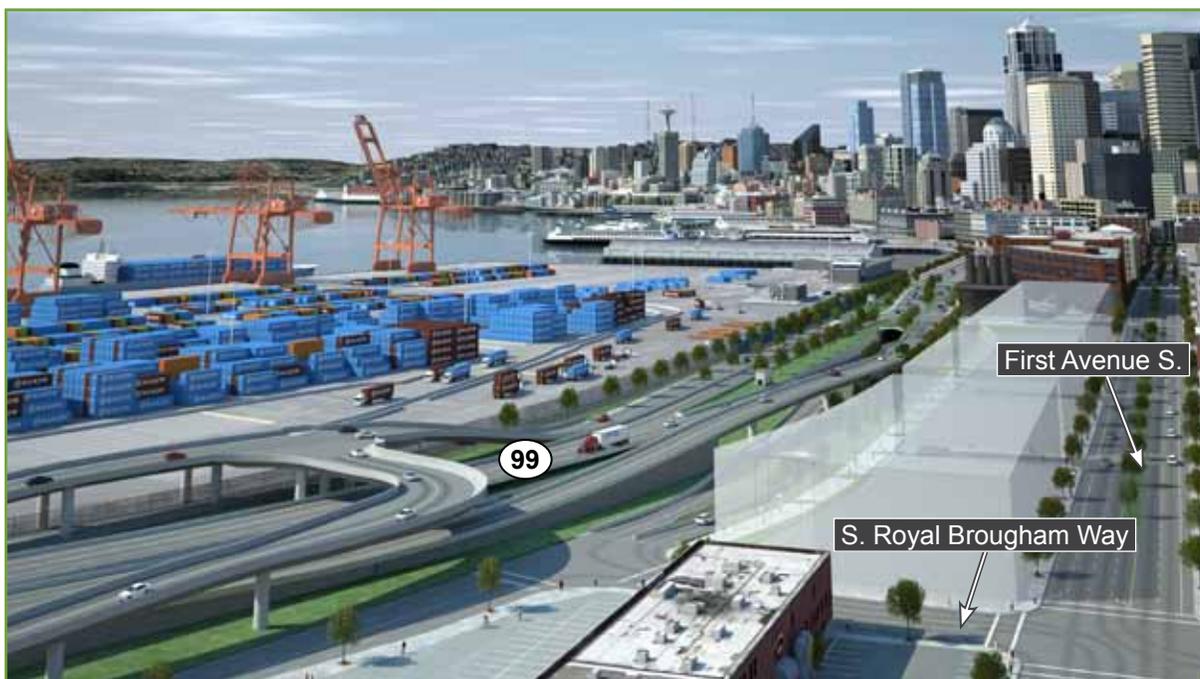
The SR 99 tunnel, along with street and transit improvements that are part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, will improve access for West Seattle and South King County residents heading through or into downtown Seattle.

The tunnel will have the capacity to accommodate trips bypassing downtown on SR 99, which currently total more than 60,000 each day. For the rest of today's viaduct users, there will be a number of options. Drivers will be able to access the downtown street grid using ramps at either end of the tunnel and then choose among a variety of routes to connect to their destination. From the Spokane Street Viaduct, off-ramps to First Avenue S. and Fourth Avenue S. will provide additional routes into downtown. Travelers will also have numerous transit options.

Using the SR 99 tunnel

The tunnel will maintain an efficient route through downtown, helping people and goods from West Seattle and neighborhoods to the south easily access the Mercer Street corridor, Seattle Center, Uptown, Queen Anne, South Lake Union and neighborhoods north of the ship canal.

Drivers traveling toward downtown using Alaskan Way S., First Avenue S., Fourth Avenue S., East Marginal Way S. or other city streets will access the tunnel via an on-ramp at S. Royal Brougham Way, next to the stadiums.



Simulation of new SR 99 looking north.

Using the new Alaskan Way

Drivers will have the option of using the new Alaskan Way surface street for trips to or through downtown Seattle. SR 99 drivers from West Seattle will access Alaskan Way using a new connection at S. Dearborn Street. This connection and new east-west connections between Alaskan Way and downtown will replace the function of today's midtown viaduct ramps and also provide improved access to the waterfront. Drivers using the new Alaskan Way to travel through downtown will connect directly to Elliott or Western avenues using a new bridge connection over the railroad tracks below Pike Place Market. The signals on Alaskan Way will be timed to move traffic efficiently while providing safe pedestrian crossings.



Early concept of Alaskan Way connection to Elliott and Western avenues.

Improving connections and access along the waterfront

The new Alaskan Way will be a “complete street” – one that accommodates pedestrian, bicycle, transit and freight movements as well as general traffic. It will have two lanes

in each direction plus turn lanes, and an additional lane in each direction south of Columbia Street to accommodate ferry traffic. Signalized intersections and left turn lanes will provide numerous entry points into downtown. A

West Seattle routes to and through downtown Seattle



SR 99 tunnel south portal design concept.

new north-south bicycle route along the waterfront will connect to existing trails such as the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail.

Improving transit access to downtown

As part of the viaduct replacement, King County has received construction mitigation funding until 2014 to improve transit service to and through downtown Seattle. A large portion of this funding is being used to improve the reliability and frequency of service to and from West Seattle. Additionally, King County will implement more frequent service between West Seattle and downtown in fall 2011, and will introduce new West Seattle RapidRide (Line C) service in fall 2012 with improved frequencies, new buses, enhanced bus stop facilities, real-time information and transit priority signals.

The SR 99 tunnel's portal areas are designed to improve transit access and reliability. For example, the new SR 99 will include a northbound transit-only shoulder lane between S. Holgate Street and the off-ramp near the stadiums. The transit shoulder will accommodate buses coming from south King County and West Seattle. The new off-ramp will allow West Seattle express service to better serve south downtown Seattle.

Summary of Improvements

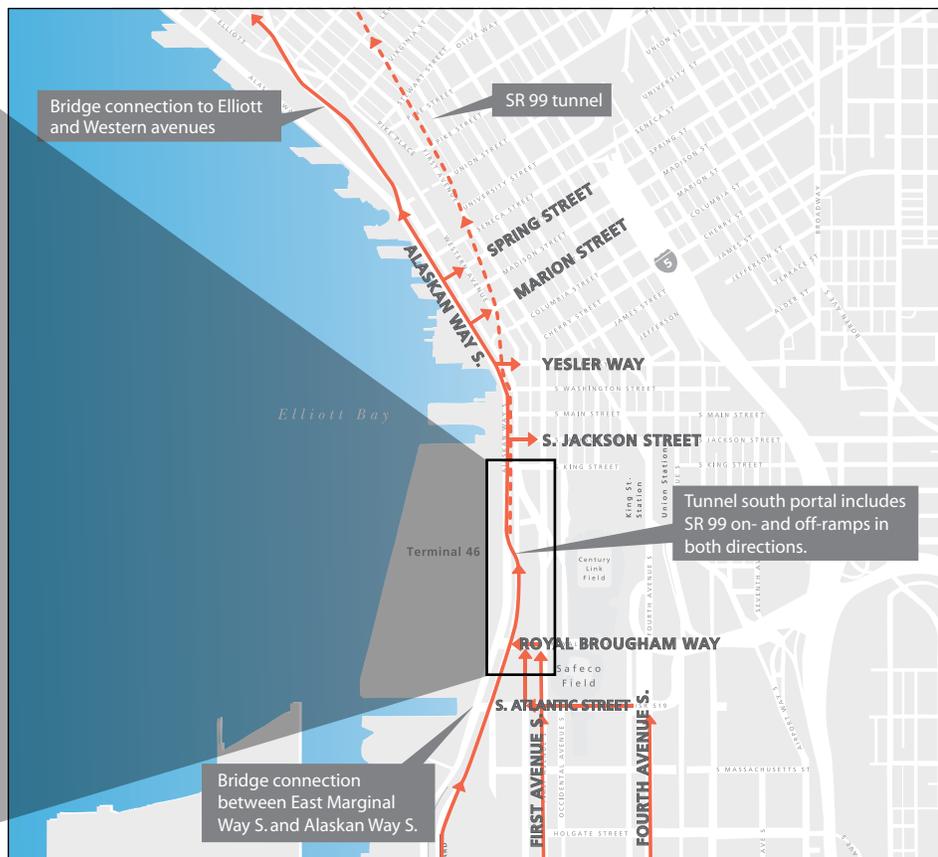
SR 99 tunnel: The tunnel will be an efficient bypass through downtown to the Mercer Street corridor, Seattle Center, Uptown, Queen Anne, South Lake Union and neighborhoods north of the ship canal.

Ramps between SR 99 and Alaskan Way: New ramps between SR 99 and the new Alaskan Way will provide an efficient connection to and from downtown and allow more direct access to the south downtown area.

New eastbound off-ramp to Fourth Avenue S. from the West Seattle Bridge: Part of the City of Seattle's S. Spokane Street Viaduct project, this off-ramp provides West Seattle commuters a new route into downtown.

New Elliott and Western Avenue connection: With a new bridge connection over the railroad tracks, the new Alaskan Way will flow directly to and from Elliott and Western avenues, providing an efficient route through downtown and to Interbay and northwest Seattle neighborhoods.

New transit options: New RapidRide service for West Seattle will provide fast, frequent service to downtown with easy connections to the Sound Transit Link light rail system. King County is seeking additional funding to further enhance this service.



West Seattle routes to and through downtown Seattle

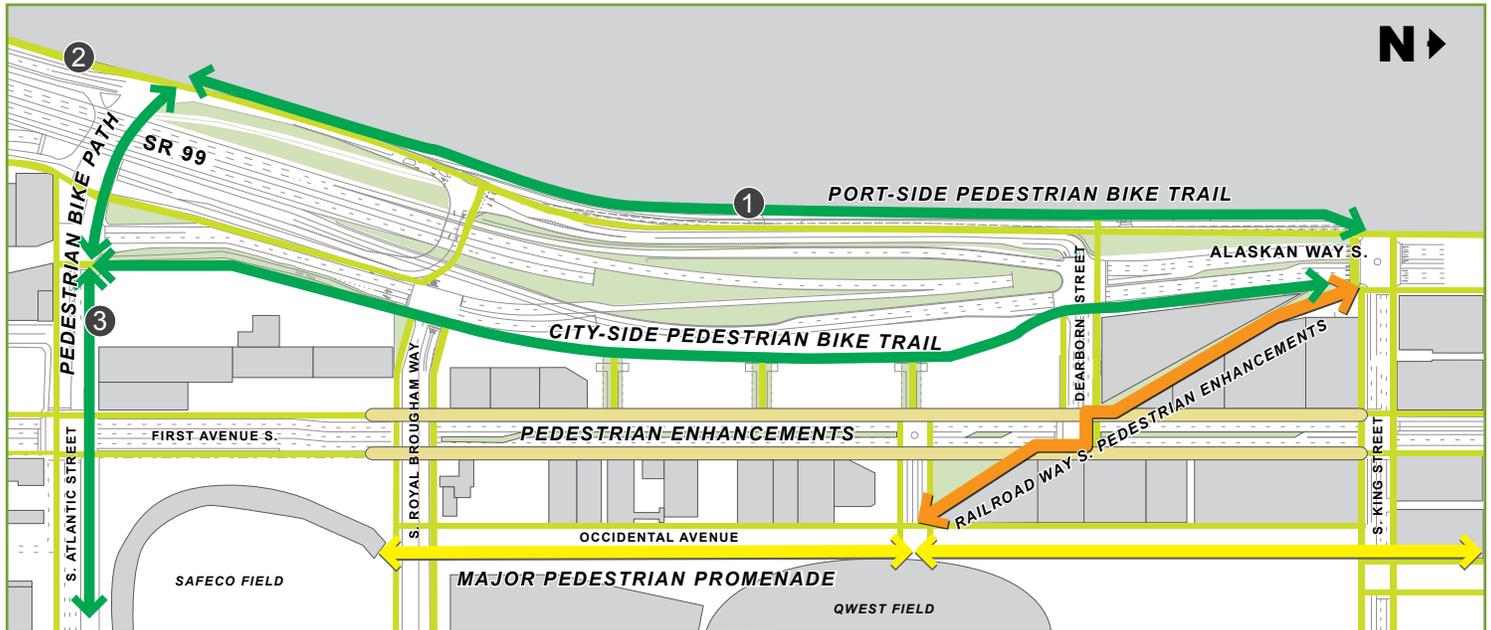
Bicycle and pedestrian connections

East Marginal Way S. / Alaskan Way S. is one of the most active bicycle corridors in Seattle, bringing commuters from West Seattle and south King County to downtown. A number of infrastructure improvements will benefit riders in this area, including:

1. A shared bicycle and pedestrian path on the west side of Alaskan Way S.
2. New bike lanes on Alaskan Way S. south of S. Atlantic Street.

3. A new bicycle and pedestrian path on the north side of S. Atlantic Street between First Avenue S. and Alaskan Way S.

To accommodate foot traffic between the waterfront, stadiums and local businesses, new sidewalks will be built on Railroad Way S., First Avenue S., S. Royal Brougham Way, S. Atlantic Street, Colorado Avenue S., and a new north-south road between S. Royal Brougham Way and S. Atlantic Street.



Design concept showing bicycle and pedestrian access near the SR 99 tunnel's south portal. Some of these improvements will be constructed as part of the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street viaduct replacement, the tunnel's south access project, or private redevelopment.

For more information

Visit the website at www.alaskanwayviaduct.org

Call the hotline at 1-888-AWV-LINE

Send an email to viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

Send a letter to:

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program
Washington State Department of Transportation
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104

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