

Alaskan Way Viaduct

Central Waterfront Public Forum and Scoping Meeting Summary

Dec. 15, 2008

Meeting overview

WSDOT, King County and the City of Seattle hosted a public forum on Dec. 15, 2008, at Town Hall in downtown Seattle. The purpose of this meeting was to update the public on the two hybrid scenarios for the viaduct's central waterfront section, explain the process for determining a solution and solicit feedback on the hybrid scenarios.

This meeting also served as a public scoping meeting 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 public forum:

- An announcement in the Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) program e-mail update to more than 5,000 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, Seattle 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 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, Capitol Hill and Ballard neighborhoods.
- Media advisory to print, radio and television reporters.

Format of the forum

After signing in at the registration table, attendees received an agenda and a question card to be used during the presentation. Attendees were then given an opportunity to review information and pick up handouts at six stations. Though attendees could visit the stations in any order, a logical progression was suggested.

- Station 1: Central waterfront project area, guiding principles, and scenario building blocks
- Station 2: I-5, surface and transit hybrid scenario
- Station 3: SR 99 elevated bypass hybrid scenario
- Station 4: I-5 improvements
- Station 5: Project scoping and schedule – environmental scoping explanation and project/environmental milestones
- Station 6: Moving Forward projects

Attendees then listened to a presentation describing the two hybrid scenarios and how they were developed. During the presentation, attendees were asked to write down any questions they had on the cards that were provided at the sign-in table. Following the presentation, the questions were read aloud by the moderator to the program team. Seventy-three questions were collected, and 24 questions were read aloud.

After the presentation and question and answer period, attendees were given the opportunity to make a public comment at a microphone. Twenty-four people spoke during the public comment time.

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

- 37 comment forms were collected at the meeting.
- 2 comment forms were mailed after the meeting.

Attendance

Approximately 140 people attended the public forum.

What we heard – Comment summary

Feedback was collected through comment forms, conversations with program staff members and through a court reporter.

The public comment speakers spoke in favor of a variety of options to replace the viaduct, including a lidded trench, bored tunnel, integrated elevated structure, surface expressway and a surface hybrid, as well as retrofitting the current structure. Several speakers also voiced concern over the hybrid scenarios' lack of exits to downtown, capacity and pedestrian accessibility.

Of the 39 comment forms that were submitted, meeting attendees voiced their likes and dislikes about each hybrid scenario. They also listed different topics to include in the environmental documentation.

Verbatim comments

A court reporter was hired to transcribe the question and answer segment and the public comment period. A transcript of speakers' comments and a list of comments received on comment forms are available upon request.

Next steps

Comments from the public forum were distributed to program leadership and the program environmental team and were made available online. The comments were also shared with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, at their Dec. 18, 2008, meeting; the Interagency Working Group and the Project Oversight Committee.