

The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project



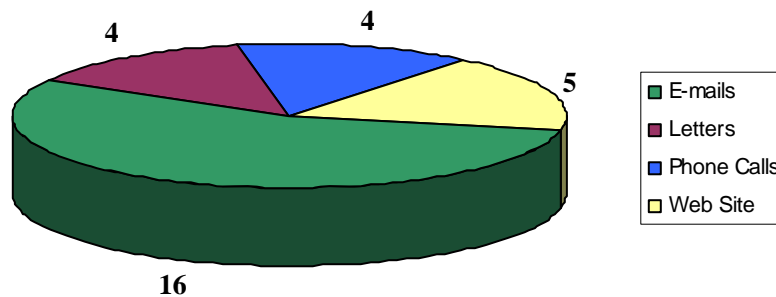
MAY 2007 COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

In May, 50 comments were submitted to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project team.

Comment Format and Origin

Comment Format



This month's comment totals include four letters to the governor that were referred to the project office for response.

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 May comments.

Transportation:

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

- Vancouver BC has successfully avoided freeways within the city and their economy hasn't suffered. What do they know that we don't?

Design/Construction:

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In May, there were 29 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- The concept of tearing down the south end of the existing viaduct seems to be a mistake both from a planning sense and financially, as does the planned relocation of utilities. Options, such as re-locating the traffic to a Western Avenue tunnel, would be compromised by both actions.
- Replace the viaduct with a new viaduct. The election was flawed; the majority of people wanted a new viaduct!
- I would be on the viaduct every day if it were a tunnel, and had the roof with the huge walkway. Also, having the roof would promote walking to the waterfront instead of driving. And that could cut down on obesity in Seattle.
- Has an “open cut” concept been explored yet? Level pedestrian and some vehicular bridges could span over it where necessary to access the waterfront and also function to structurally stabilize both retaining walls.
- As the old viaduct is being torn down, place that rubble on the other side of the present seawall. This rubble forms a new seawall out in Elliott Bay. As each portion of the viaduct comes down the road builders are building a new surface-six lane freeway.
- Construction on portions of rejected design schemes breaches voters’ trust and illustrates the State’s unresponsiveness toward Seattle citizens’ desires: for a transportation solution compatible with our neighborhoods and quality of life.

Economic:

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

- Where possible maintain all roads to all businesses or build new ones to keep them in business. Losing a business due to environmental causes or circumstances beyond one’s control is not right. There needs to be compensation to make the owner whole again.

Transit:

This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In May, there were two comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- I think that instead of replacing the viaduct we should demolish it and put up a major transportation device. My suggestion would be a train in the air, such as the light rail that is being created. However this light rail would go between the shops of downtown Seattle and past the Pike Place Market, then through Seattle or some sort of hanger that can take you from one place to another.

Environmental/Public Safety:

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

- The only danger in a tunnel would be cave-ins, and that would be easier to prevent since the roof, not having anything on it, would not be under as much pressure.

Structures/Location:

This group includes categories like historic structures and districts, portals, stadiums and South Lake Union. In May, there were three comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- Apparently there is a possibility that Seattle's historic underground, or a significant portion of it, will be seriously altered. It will affect our historic neighborhood and result in our losing a portion of Seattle's unique heart.

Community Briefings

The project attended eight community briefings in May, and received approximately 145 comments and questions. Outreach events are summarized separately; summaries are available upon request.

- May 4: UW CEE 500 Transportation and Construction Seminar
- May 10: Whitman College Alumni
- May 14: Belltown Community Council, Housing and Land Use Committee
- May 22: North Seattle Industrial Association
- May 22: MIC Executive Committee
- May 23: University Lions Club
- May 23: DSA Viaduct Subcommittee
- May 30: Allied Arts

Fairs and Festivals

The project attended one festival in May, and received approximately 350 visitors. Outreach events are summarized separately; summaries are available upon request.

- May 19-20: University District Street Fair