

The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project



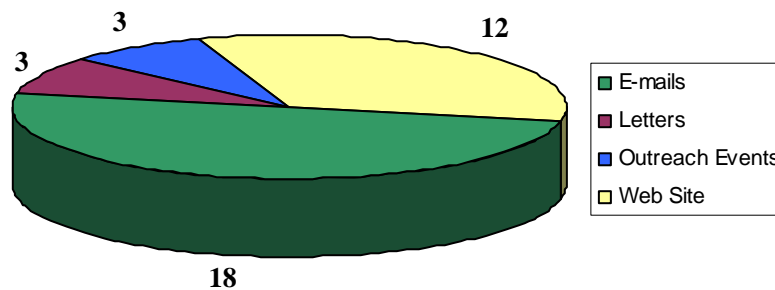
JULY 2007 COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

In July, 36 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 three pieces of correspondence to the governor and other elected officials that were referred to the project 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 July comments.

Transportation:

This group includes categories such as traffic, connections/circulations, pedestrians, and bicycles. In July, there was one comment in this category. Below is an excerpt of the comment.

- As daily users of the viaduct and parallel surface streets, we anticipate unacceptable gridlock if the viaduct is not replaced with a similar capacity roadway.

Design/Construction:

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In July, there were 17 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- I'm curious if any consideration has been made of a suspension bridge with floating caissons to support its central towers over Elliott Bay as a possible replacement for the Alaskan Way Viaduct.
- I heard that the Battery Street Tunnel will get updated in the next couple of years. Currently there are fans in the tunnel that come on and off. Will those fans be updated with something that makes less noise?
- In what season in 2008 will the tunnel southbound off-ramp close? And when will the northbound on-ramp to SR 99 close?
- We have strong reservations about the \$50 million project for "earthquake upgrades" from Lenora to the Battery Street Tunnel. The voters have told WSDOT/SDOT to go back to the drawing board and in our mind that means looking at new options for the viaduct replacement, some of which could easily preclude the retention of this existing transition section between the Battery Street Tunnel and Lenora.

Economic:

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

- I'm thinking of investing in property in West Seattle. So the viaduct plays a big role in my decision-making process.

Transit:

This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In July, there were zero comments in this category.

Environmental/Public Safety:

This group includes categories like noise, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. In July, there was one comment in this category. Below is an excerpt of the comment.

- What earthquake magnitude would be needed to cause the viaduct to fall?

Structures/Location:

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

- Can you confirm that the Columbia Street on-ramp opened on February 1, 1966?

Community Briefings

The project attended 13 community briefings in July. Outreach events are summarized separately; summaries are available upon request.

- July 6: PSRC Regional Freight Mobility Roundtable

- July 18: Pioneer Square Preservation Board
- July 18: Transit Integration Group
- July 18: St. Martin de Porres
- July 18: DSA Downtown Construction Projects Panel
- July 19: Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Transportation Committee
- July 19: Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
- July 19: AASHTO
- July 24: Compass Center one-on-one interview
- July 25: DSA Viaduct Task Force
- July 27: International Delegation from the World Affairs Council
- July 27: OK Hotel one-on-one interview
- July 31: National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fairs, Festivals and Farmers Markets

The project attended 10 events in July, and received approximately 1200 visitors. Outreach events are summarized separately; summaries are available upon request.

- July 1: Broadway Farmers Market
- July 1: Hispanic Seafair
- July 7: Pioneer Square Fire Festival
- July 11: Wallingford Farmers Market
- July 13-15: West Seattle Summer Fest
- July 14-15: Chinatown-International District Festival
- July 18: Boeing Safety Fair
- July 20: "Picnic at the Pier" Concert Series
- July 25: Maple Leaf Summer Social
- July 28-29: Ballard Seafood Festival