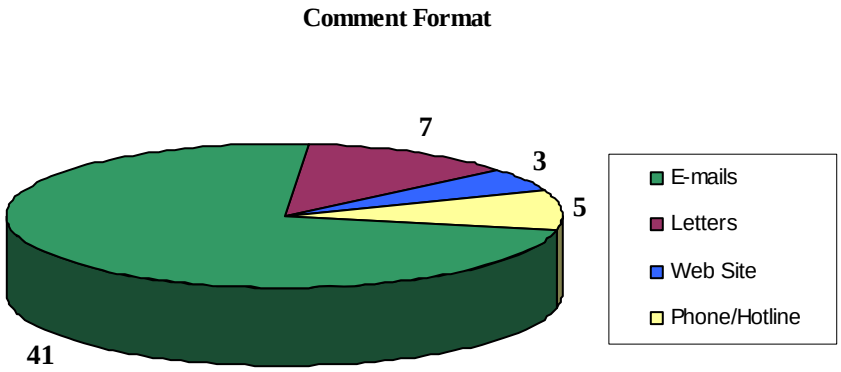
DECEMBER 2007 PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

In December, 56 comments were submitted to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program team.

Comment Format and Origin



This month's comment totals include 10 pieces of correspondence to the Governor and the City of Seattle that were referred to the program office for response. 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. No comments were made in the structures/locations category during December. 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 December comments.

Transportation:

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

- A large amount of vehicles and delivery trucks depend on SR 99, which offsets what would be a significant impact on I-5 if the viaduct were not in place.

- Will every replacement alternative cause traffic?
- Whatever the solution is, it should not add time to any trip which is presently commuted.

Design/Construction:
This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In December, there were 25 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- I want to know if a suspension bridge, over land, in the current viaduct site has been looked at. I thought I saw this in one of the early ideas passed around and not accepted.
- I do not want a tunnel. Basically, you should dig a big ditch with no cover along the waterfront where the viaduct is now.
- I recently heard that you are no longer undertaking the construction on the North part of the viaduct. Is it true that the work on the Battery Street Tunnel and the north end will not be undertaken until a decision is made on the central waterfront?

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

- The ability of businesses to receive goods and provide services throughout the entire region in a timely manner is vital to the existence of those businesses.
- I suggest that replacing the viaduct be paid for by charging a toll.
- I am particularly concerned about the huge amount of money that is proposed to preserve highway capacity in the corridor.

Transit:
This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In December, there were six comments in this category.

- A light rail line should be built in the Aurora corridor. This will provide a much more sustainable alternative for some of the displaced trips.
- Significant funds saved by not building a new viaduct should be used to create the best bus transit system in the country. This could include more Park and Rides and transit lanes.

Environmental/Public Safety:
This group includes categories like noise, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. In December, there were seven comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- Anyone driving on the viaduct can enjoy the view of the city, see the mountains and it is the only time to see this view when you work all day.
- In planning for the future of the Seattle waterfront, has the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change been considered? Sea level might be as much as six feet higher by the end of this century.

- Wouldn't it be wonderful to eliminate a little of the exhaust in the city by removing the viaduct and routing traffic to the Bellevue side?

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 December included:

Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings

The program team attended one Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, which was attended by approximately 50 members of the public.

- December 13: Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

Community Briefings

The program attended five community briefings in December.

- December 5: Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board
- December 6: Waterfront Landing Condominiums, Board of Directors
- December 7: Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Viaduct Task Force
- December 10: Belltown Community Council
- December 20: Seattle Design Commission

Fairs, Festivals and Farmers Markets

The program attended one fair in December, and received approximately 300 visitors.

- December 11: Pemco Transportation Fair