King County

State of Washington | King County | City of Seattle

A Letter of Commitment
Between the State of Washington, King County and the City of Seattle

A Partnership Approach to Resolve the Remaining Issues for the Alaskan Way Viaduct

Significant effort has been made over the past few years to develop an acceptable replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Much has been learned, but deep disagreements have prevented parties from coalescing around a unified strategy for moving forward.

We are launching a new effort that brings together our three administrations – along with interested stakeholders and the legislative bodies – to forge a solution capable of being broadly supported and implemented. Stakeholder and legislative input will be actively sought and integrated at each step of the way as we work toward a solution.

Breaking with the past requires new and creative ways of thinking through solutions. To consider a broader range of possibilities for replacing the viaduct, we will expand our perspective on the issue. We will look beyond the SR 99 corridor and consider more broadly the entire transportation network in Seattle in a wider context. Our intention is to develop a recommended approach in December 2008 for consideration by the appropriate legislative bodies in 2009.

Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct is to be grounded in the city, state and county's recognition of, commitment to and integration across a set of six guiding principles. These guiding principles are as follows:

- ***Improve public safety.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must improve public safety for current viaduct users and along the central waterfront.

- ***Provide efficient movement of people and goods.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must optimize the ability to move people and goods in and through Seattle in an efficient manner, including access to port and rail facilities.

- ***Maintain or improve downtown Seattle, regional and state economies.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must sustain the city, region and state's economic vitality.

- ***Enhance Seattle's waterfront as a place for people.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must allow Seattle's waterfront's to become a world-class destination and welcoming front door to the city.

- ***Create solutions that are fiscally responsible.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must make wise and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

- ***Foster environmentally sound approaches.*** Any solution to the Alaskan Way Viaduct must demonstrate environmental leadership, with a particular emphasis on supporting local, regional, and state climate change initiatives.

As we push ahead, we are committed to this shared set of guiding principles. We further recognize the need to integrate across our many and sometimes varied interests in order to find common ground.

Our three administrations are also mindful of moving forward in a manner that builds sustainable agreements. We are committed to integrating technical work into a single unified effort jointly managed by all three parties. We are committed to putting forward a stakeholder involvement process that truly involves interested members of the public in this effort through a "no surprises" approach. And we are committed to working closely with city, county and state legislative bodies to ensure their perspectives are incorporated into any proposed solution.

We fully endorse this partnership and are each personally committed to invest the time and resources needed to ensure this project reaches a successful conclusion.

Christine O. Gregoire Governor	Ron Sims King County Executive	Greg Nickels Mayor of Seattle