

# The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program



## Central Waterfront

Alaskan Way Viaduct  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Scenario Evaluation Results – Enhance Seattle’s Waterfront – Measure 7  
September 25, 2008

## Guiding Principles

1. Improve public safety.
2. Provide efficient movement of people and goods now and in the future.
3. Maintain or improve downtown Seattle, regional, the port and state economies.
- 4. Enhance Seattle's waterfront, downtown and adjacent neighborhoods as a place for people.**
5. Create solutions that are fiscally responsible.
6. Improve the health of the environment.

# Scenario Evaluation Measures for Guiding Principle 4

1. Evaluate open space opportunities.
2. Evaluate pedestrian connectivity and barriers between the waterfront and other key downtown destinations.
3. Measure shadowing and view blocking impacts.
4. Assess changes in bicycle and pedestrian environment throughout Center City, including impacts of traffic volumes, traffic management changes, speeds, and air pollution.
5. Assess changes in traffic noise levels on the waterfront and in adjacent Center City neighborhoods.
6. Assess transit access to and on the waterfront.
7. **Assess impacts on historic structures and districts.**

## Central Waterfront

# Assess impacts to historic structures and districts

- Qualitative description of changes to character.
- Identify potential modifications or removals.
- Based on conceptual plans and scenario descriptions.
- Key historic resources:
  - Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market districts.
  - Central waterfront piers (individually and as a district).
  - Warehouses on Western Avenue.
  - Numerous other buildings, structures and districts.

## Key Findings

- All Scenarios
  - Likely have some impacts to historic buildings or districts due to increase traffic.
  - Increased travel through Pioneer Square could impact the historic district.
    - Noise and congestion from traffic.
    - More heavy vehicles could damage areaways.
  - While construction impacts cannot be evaluated yet, they are very important and may be difficult to avoid.

## Key Findings

- Scenarios without an elevated structure (A, B, C, F, G, H) would benefit several historic districts.
  - Reduces existing noise and visual impacts.
- Scenarios with the Alaskan Way/Western Avenue couplet (Couplet, Integrated Elevated and Bored Tunnel scenarios) require moving the Al Boccolino building at Yesler Way and Western Avenue.
  - Building remains within Pioneer Square district.

## Key Findings

- The independent elevated would have similar or possibly less impacts to historic resources as the existing structure.
- Among the scenarios, the Integrated Elevated uniquely separates the central waterfront piers and historic district from historic resources along Western Avenue and in Pioneer Square.
  - Historic criteria include “setting” and “association,” both of which would be substantially altered.
  - It appears this impact cannot be substantially reduced without fundamentally altering the scenario.

## What Did We Learn?

- All scenarios have impacts to historic resources.
- Surface and tunnel scenarios have fewer impacts.
- Scenarios with Alaskan Way/Western couplet relocate historic building.
- The independent elevated has impacts similar to the existing structure.
- The Integrated Elevated is the only scenario that separates the central waterfront pier district from other historic buildings and districts.
  - It appears this impact cannot be substantially reduced without fundamentally altering the scenario.
- Continued planning and design can protect historic integrity. 8