

# The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program

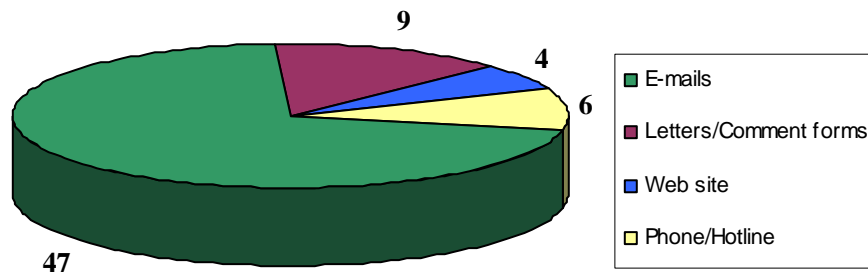
## JANUARY 2008 PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

### Introduction

In January 2008, 66 public comments were submitted to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program team.

### Comment Format and Origin

Comment Format



This month's comment totals include 11 pieces of correspondence to the Governor 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. 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 January comments.

#### Transportation:

This group includes categories such as traffic, connections/circulations, pedestrians, and bicycles. In January, there were 10 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- I was caught in the horrendous traffic snarl after the last earthquake. Just such a mess will occur daily if the Viaduct is torn down before an expanded capacity system is on-line.

- I strongly disagree with the notion of “tear it down and traffic will go away.” You can not compare how traffic adjusts to a three week construction project in August, when people are on vacation and other people will tolerate alternatives for a short period, to what would happen if traffic capacity were reduced permanently.
- I was shocked upon moving to Seattle that the traffic situation is much more severe here than even Los Angeles. What a sad statement for Seattle.

### **Design/Construction:**

This group includes categories such as central waterfront design alternatives, construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. In January, there were 30 comments in this category. Below is a sampling of the comments.

- There is only one option that makes sense for the Seattle waterfront: a waterfront without a viaduct.
- The most cost effective replacement for the Alaskan Way Viaduct would be a Cable Stay Bridge. The massive, two deck proposed design will block the waterfront views, cost too much, and take too long to build.
- The Alaskan Way Viaduct Stakeholder Advisory Committee should not only consider replacing the Viaduct but also repairing it. Strengthening the Viaduct is a reasonable solution and certainly involves less cost and less traffic congestion than replacing it.

### **Economic:**

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

- Why so expensive in Seattle? Is the taxpayers' money padding other pockets along the way? Or are we just lacking skilled engineers/workers, driving up the cost due to costly mistakes along the way?
- Failing to replace the Viaduct puts my business in jeopardy. I don't care if the replacement is a rebuild, a tunnel or a cut with a partial cover. It just needs to be done as soon as possible, with minimum disruption, since disruption is costly.
- I am concerned about the large sums of tax dollars being spent on this project while in the end there will not be a useable highway for the public to use.

### **Transit:**

This group includes categories related to transit, such as light rail and buses. In January, there was one comment in this category.

- The country has been built on individual initiative and freedom, and trying to herd people into buses and trains does not seem to fit that mold.

### **Environmental/Public Safety:**

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

- I checked and the Battery Street Tunnel does not meet the new safety requirements for lane size and other factors.
- I think the safety of the thousands of commuters that travel the Viaduct is much more important than political wrangling.

### **Structures/Location:**

This group includes categories like historic structures and districts, portals, stadiums and South Lake Union. In January, there was one comment in this category.

- Will the building behind the Pyramid Brewery be condemned due to Viaduct construction?

### **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 January included:

#### **Community Briefings**

The program attended two community briefings in January.

- January 17: Transit Integration Group (TIG)
- January 22: Manufacturing Industrial Council

#### **Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings**

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

- January 24: Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting