

Alaskan Way Viaduct REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



September 2013

By early 2014, the machine digging the State Route 99 tunnel will pass beneath the Alaskan Way Viaduct near Yesler Way, in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood. The Washington State Department of Transportation will close the viaduct for one to two weeks while the machine digs approximately 15 feet beneath the structure's foundation.

The viaduct was designed and built to withstand some settlement, and WSDOT has reinforced the structure and strengthened the ground beneath its foundations to protect it during tunneling. Temporarily removing traffic on the viaduct during this section of the tunnel drive will further minimize risk of damage to the structure.

Protecting the viaduct

WSDOT has implemented a comprehensive program to monitor and mitigate settlement as the machine digs under the viaduct, including:

- 1 Outfitting the viaduct and the ground below it with instruments designed to detect the slightest ground movement.
- 2 Wrapping reinforcing fiber around this section of the viaduct to provide additional strength.
- 3 Installing underground support walls to hold the soil in place beneath this section of the viaduct's foundation.
- 4 Using the machine to inject grout into the ground as needed during tunneling to fill any voids that occur.

Tunneling beneath the State Route 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct

