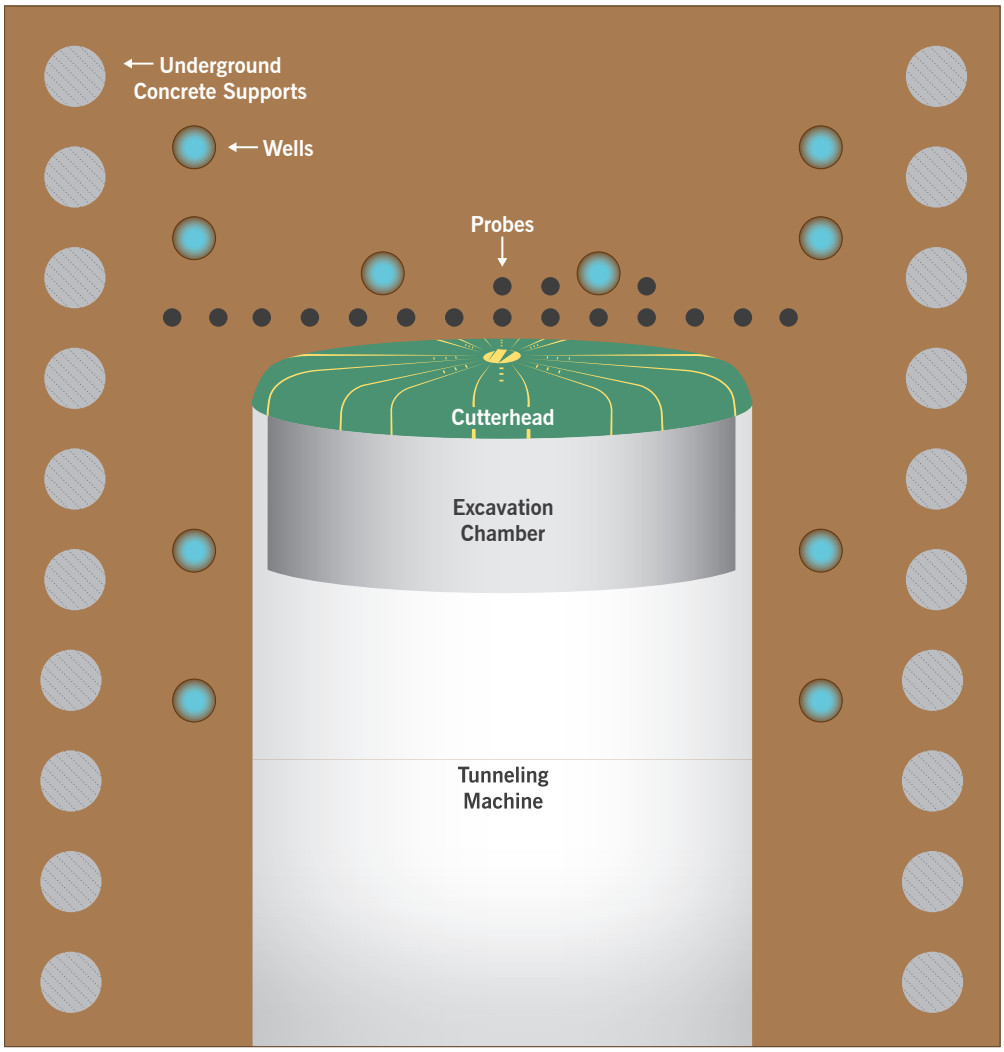
Alaskan Way Viaduct
REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration | WSDOT | King County | Port of Seattle | City of Seattle

January 2014

Progress made on SR 99 tunnel blockage



Overview
On Dec. 6, crews building the SR 99 tunnel stopped mining when the tunneling machine encountered unanticipated and increasing resistance. Seattle Tunnel Partners, the Washington State Department of Transportation's design-build contractor for the project, has taken a number of steps to identify the issue and resume tunneling.

Underground concrete supports – Concrete supports were installed on either side of the machine's path prior to tunneling. These supports act as a protective framework around the early part of the tunnel drive.

Wells – On Dec. 11, crews started installing wells near the machine to reduce water pressure and create a safe environment for them to inspect the machine's excavation chamber.

Probes from the surface – During the week of Dec. 30, crews began drilling from the surface to probe for objects.

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