The future of Seattle’s central waterfront

Waterfront Seattle is a multi-year program to rebuild Seattle’s waterfront following the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. The Program spans the waterfront from Pioneer Square to Belltown and includes a rebuilt Elliott Bay Seawall, a new surface street providing access to and from downtown, and new parks, paths, and access to Elliott Bay. Waterfront Seattle is led by the City of Seattle’s Office of the Waterfront, working closely with civic leaders, stakeholders and the broader Seattle public to create a “Waterfront for All.”

For more information about Waterfront Seattle:
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Traveling on the new SR 99 corridor

The Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program will transform how drivers use SR 99 to reach or bypass downtown Seattle. The new SR 99 tunnel is designed to work in conjunction with a new Alaskan Way surface street that will be built in the footprint of the to-be-removed viaduct.

The SR 99 tunnel will provide a direct route for vehicles seeking to bypass downtown entirely, while the new surface street will provide improved connections into the downtown Seattle grid. These new route options will make some current trips shorter and other trips a little longer.

Using the tunnel:
• The tunnel will have two general-purpose lanes in each direction
• No mid-tunnel exits or entrances
• New access ramps to and from SR 99 will be built at S. Dearborn Street on the south end and at Republican Street on the north end
• New or improved surface streets at both ends will provide connections into downtown (south end) and South Lake Union (north end)

The tunnel is designed to carry the current volume of viaduct drivers who use the viaduct to bypass downtown entirely. The new, two-way Alaskan Way surface street, which will run from the tunnel’s south portal to Elliott and Western avenues at the north end of the waterfront, will provide connections between SR 99 and downtown Seattle.

Most importantly, the project is protecting the traveling public by replacing the aging and seismically vulnerable viaduct with a tunnel featuring modern safety and traffic management systems.

Important note: This folio shows route options once the Alaskan Way surface street is complete. The SR 99 tunnel will open to traffic, and the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be closed and torn down, before the Alaskan Way surface street can be built. Alternate routes will be in place during that period of time.
Future access on SR 99 into and through downtown Seattle

Common routes

1 Northbound and West Seattle → Downtown
Take SR 99 north to the new exit at South Dearborn Street. From there, surface streets or the new Alaskan Way along the waterfront provide connections into downtown.

2 Downtown → Southbound SR 99 and West Seattle
Use downtown streets to reach the new Alaskan Way surface street, then take that street south to reach the SR 99 southbound on-ramp at South Dearborn Street.

3 Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard → Downtown
Use the new connection above the train tracks from Elliott Avenue to the new Alaskan Way surface street, and then to connections into downtown.

4 Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard → Stadiums and southbound SR 99
Use Mercer Street to reach the southbound SR 99 on-ramp at the tunnel’s north end, and take the tunnel to the stadium exits or continue south on SR 99.

5 South Lake Union/downtown → SR 99
Use improved street grid (reconnected John, Thomas and Harrison streets) to reach on-ramps to northbound and southbound SR 99 at tunnel’s north end.

*Surface street lines are representative only, to indicate generally the possible routes between neighborhoods and the future SR 99 tunnel and new Alaskan Way surface street.