



SR 99: ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT & SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Submitted pursuant to
the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(c))
and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)(Ch. 43.21 C RCW)

by the
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

and
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

and
CITY OF SEATTLE

Abstract

The existing Alaskan Way Viaduct (SR 99) and Alaskan Way Seawall are at the end of their useful life and must be replaced. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and City of Seattle (in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers (Seattle District), Federal Transit Administration, King County, and Port of Seattle) plan to replace the existing facilities in order to provide structures capable of withstanding earthquakes and to maintain or improve mobility and accessibility for people and goods along the corridor. The SR 99 corridor provides vital transportation connections in to and through downtown

Seattle, as well as between various other regional destinations. The seawall supports Seattle's central waterfront, the Alaskan Way surface street, and numerous utilities serving the city's urban core. The seawall also supports soil surrounding the foundations of the viaduct. Failure of either structure would create severe hardships for the city and region, and could possibly cause injury or death. For these reasons, the draft environmental impact statement analyzes five build alternatives for their potential effects on the human and natural environment. The analysis also considers construction and cumulative effects. A preferred alternative is not identified.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Sarah Ferguson at (206) 382-5287 fergusa@wsdot.wa.gov. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call WA State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 711.

Title VI:

WSDOT assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex in the provision of benefits and services. For language interpretation services please contact WSDOT at (206) 382-5287. It is necessary to speak limited English so that your request can be appropriately responded to. For information on WSDOT's Title VI Program, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.



Megan Hall
Area Engineer
for Federal Highway Administration

3/10/04

Date of Approval



Megan White
Director of Environmental Services
for Washington State Department of Transportation

3/10/04

Date of Approval



Grace Crunican
Director of Seattle Department of Transportation
for the City of Seattle

4 March 2004

Date of Approval



FACT SHEET

Project Title:

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project

Project Description:

The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project proposes to improve the existing SR 99 corridor now served by the Alaskan Way Viaduct in Seattle, Washington. The project would provide facilities with improved earthquake resistance that maintains or improves mobility for people and goods along the existing SR 99 Corridor. The project will also improve the Alaskan Way Seawall, which supports surface streets and the viaduct's foundations.

The proposed action is necessary to replace or rebuild the seawall and viaduct structures designed and built to last approximately 50-75 years, now nearing the end of their serviceable life span. The age, design, and location of the existing viaduct makes it vulnerable to soil liquefaction, and studies suggest the structure could be rendered unusable in a strong earthquake. Damage sustained by the structure during the February 2001 Nisqually earthquake further compromised its seismic vulnerability.

The seawall structure is not structurally sound. The seawall is also seismically vulnerable to earthquake damage. The seawall is critically important, as it supports the soils holding up both the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Alaskan Way surface street.

The SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct, along with Interstate 5, are the primary north-south limited access routes through downtown Seattle, making the Alaskan Way Viaduct a vital link in the region's highway and freight mobility system, and thus critical to the region's economy.

The six alternatives analyzed in this Draft EIS include one no-action alternative titled No Build, and five build alternatives: Rebuild, Aerial, Tunnel, Bypass Tunnel, and Surface.

Proponents:

Washington State Department of Transportation
999 Third Avenue
Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104

City of Seattle
700 5th Avenue
Suite 3900
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Federal Highway Administration
Washington Division
Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza
711 S. Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

SEPA Lead Agency

The City of Seattle and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are co-lead agencies for SEPA with a Nominal Lead Agreement designating WSDOT as the Nominal Lead.

Responsible SEPA Official

Megan White, Director
Environmental Services Office
Washington State Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 47331
Olympia, WA 98054

NEPA Lead Agency

Federal Highway Administration
Washington Division
Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza
711 S. Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

Comment Period

A comment period will begin on the date notice is published in the Federal Register. Notice is anticipated to take place on April 9, 2004, and the comment period is expected to run through June 1, 2004.

Review Comments and Contact Information

All comments should be sent to:

Allison Ray
AWV Project Office (Wells Fargo Building)
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: Sarah Ferguson 206-382-5287

Comments can also be sent by e-mail to:

awvdeiscomments@wsdot.wa.gov

Public Hearings

Public hearings to provide information and accept comments on the Draft EIS will be held on:

April 27, 2004: *Downtown Seattle*
Dome Room, Arctic Building
3rd Floor, 700 Third Avenue
4:00-7:00 p.m.

April 28, 2004: *West Seattle*
Lafayette Elementary School
2645 California Avenue S.W.
5:00-8:00 p.m.

April 29, 2004: *North Seattle*
Leif Erickson Hall
2245 N.W. 57th Street
5:00-8:00 p.m.

FACT SHEET

Continued

Document Availability

The Draft EIS is available online at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct/>.

It is also available on CD-ROM by contacting the AWV Project Office at:

Allison Ray
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS and related Appendices (Technical Memoranda and Discipline Reports) are available at City of Seattle public libraries and Neighborhood Service Centers (See Appendix A-Public Involvement for Distribution List). These documents are also available for purchase at the:

**AWV Project Office,
999 Third Avenue, Ste. 2424
Seattle, WA 98104.**

CDs and Executive Summaries are available at no charge. Prices for hard copy volumes are as follows:

DEIS copies (11x17 color)	\$25
Tech Memos or Discipline Report	
Appendix volumes	\$75
Complete set of volumes	\$100

Permits and Approvals

Federal

US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Individual Permit
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Certification
Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation
Magnuson-Stevens Essential Fish Habitat Consultation
Section 10 - Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
Section 401 Water Quality Certification
National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Sec. 106)

State

Ecology 401 Water Quality Certification
Ecology 402 NPDES Stormwater Permits
Ecology Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Certification
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
WDNR Aquatic Lands Use Authorization or Aquatics Land Lease
PSCAA Clean Air Conformity

City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Planning & Development (DPD)
Master Use Permit
Seattle Substantial Shoreline Development Permit/
Conditional Use Permit and/or Variance
DPD Shoreline Development Permit
DPD noise variances for construction
Seattle Dept. of Transportation approvals for detour routing
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Certificates of Approval for structures in Pioneer Square Historic District
Building, grading, demolition, side sewer, electrical, signage, and stormwater review

Authors and Principal Contributors

See List of Preparers in the Draft EIS.

Date of Issue of Draft EIS

March 31, 2004

Subsequent Environmental Review

Following issuance of the Draft EIS, there will be a comment period ending June 1, 2004. After the comment period ends, the lead agencies will respond to comments. A Preferred Alternative will be selected, and issuance of a Final EIS is anticipated by Summer of 2005. Following issuance of the Final EIS, a federal Record of Decision will be issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

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CONTENTS

<i>Cover Sheet</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Fact Sheet</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>1 Introduction to the Project</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2 Summary: Comparison of the Alternatives</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>3 The Project Area Then and Now</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>4 Developing the Alternatives</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>5 Rebuild Alternative</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>6 Aerial Alternative</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>7 Tunnel Alternative</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>8 Bypass Tunnel Alternative</i>	<i>103</i>
<i>9 Surface Alternative</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>10 Construction Impacts and Mitigation</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>11 Other Things to Consider</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>ACRONYMS</i>	<i>158</i>
<i>INDEX</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>REFERENCES</i>	<i>162</i>
<i>LIST OF PREPARERS</i>	<i>162</i>
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>DISTRIBUTION LIST</i>	<i>166</i>
<i>PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT</i>	<i>167</i>
<i>COMMENT FORM</i>	<i>LAST PAGE</i>