

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: elizabeth.campbell@yesviaduct.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 12:19 PM
To: Paananen, Ron
Subject: Where is the Public's Invite?

Dear Ron,

I am in receipt of the warm, exclusive invite that WSDOT made to the Alaskan Way Viaduct Stakeholders to the Governor's big legislation signing ceremony tomorrow - the one where Gregoire is set to sign the legislation which directs that a deep-bored tunnel, which is essentially the bypass tunnel option that has three times been roundly rejected by transportation planners, government officials, and the public, in 2004, through a public referendum in 2007, and by the AWV stakeholders in 2008. So now the plan is to build this bypass tunnel any ways, the only difference is the method by which it is constructed, through boring, and let's be clear, it is not to replace the Viaduct, but instead to only partially replace the Viaduct and in the end relegate over half of the present, almost 140,000 daily users of the Viaduct to substandard means and methods to get around and through the area that they now can transverse with little to no disruption. But that is an ongoing discussion that will play itself out in the weeks, months, and maybe years to come, as efforts increase to undo this abhorrent legislation, through administrative, legal, and other forms of redress.

The topic I am writing about to you today is why is the Seattle Chamber of Commerce presiding over the invitee list to this soiree? Considering that due to the fact that this event fulfills the terms even of being an open meeting, in other words anyone from the public can attend, it is being held in a public space, and it is a government function, why was this private interest made the gatekeeper for it? It is not just inappropriate, it is wrong for either the State or the City to install a private interest as a manager or decision-maker in such an event, and specifically an event that is being subsidized by the taxpayers.

Of course it is not surprising that this has occurred, because we, those who have been more closely associated with this matter, and the public in general well recognizes that the governments involved in the Viaduct elimination effort crossed the line long ago, comingling business and special interests with government's, the people's interest.

This event should have been widely publicized, an open invitation sent out to the public (who you and the rest of your government cohorts are expecting to foot the bill for this project) through the various media outlets, and a private organization such as the Downtown Chamber should not have any part in it past any one of its members being just one of the attendees; to have the Chamber performing this gatekeeper function is untenable, end of story. It is not too late to rectify this matter, and if should be done promptly.

Elizabeth Campbell
YesViaduct!
Seattle, WA

7/14/2009

cc: Initiative 99 No Tunnel Supporters

From: "Paananen, Ron" <PaananR@wsdot.wa.gov>

Date: Thu, 7 May 2009 15:22:35 -0700

To: <warren@ballardoil.com>, <jaltman8@comcast.net>, <chuck.ayers@cascadebicycleclub.com>, <carol@pikeplacemarket.org>, <mahlonc@bumgardner.biz>, <djohnconey@aol.com>, <bobd@keepclam.com>, <rob@transportationchoices.org>, <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>, <david@mlkclc.org>, <genensusan@comcast.net>, <bregards@speakeasy.net>, <mpmccumber@comcast.net>, <cary@peopleswaterfront.org>, <mike.obrien@cascade.sierraclub.org>, <jim@ohalloran.cc>, <jcodl@aol.com>, <vlad@voka.us>, <pehrsonj@comcast.net>, <peter@rhppublishing.com>, <sranf@mariners.com>, <erichardson@seedseattle.org>, <sextonr@wellsfargo.com>, <patricia.r.jensen@wellsfargo.com>, <bayouwonder@comcast.net>, <sjtaoka@yahoo.com>, <local19pres@qwest.net>, <todd@vogel-hust.com>, <washj@foster.com>, <donnewby@msn.com>

Conversation: Bill Signing Invite

Subject: Bill Signing Invite

Dear Stakeholder Advisory Committee members:

On behalf of Governor Chris Gregoire and WSDOT, I would like to invite you to attend the bored tunnel bill signing ceremony, which will be held next Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Seattle Aquarium (Pier 59 on the Seattle waterfront). The ceremony will take place in The Great Hall.

A reception will immediately follow the signing ceremony on the mezzanine level. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charles Knutson at the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Charles can be reached by phone at 206-389-7295 or by email at CharlesK@seattlechamber.com

Reaching agreement on how to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall is a remarkable achievement and would not have been possible with your participation, hard work, and feedback over the last year and a half.

Thank you for your contributions and I hope you can join us next Tuesday.

Ron Paananen
Urban Corridors Deputy Administrator
Washington State Department of Transportation