



King County

Larry Phillips

Councilmember, District Four

Metropolitan King County Council

January 8, 2009

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor
State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire,

Thank you for your careful consideration of the best option to replace the central waterfront portion of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. I know this is an extremely complex and difficult decision, and join our entire region in eagerly anticipating your recommendation.

I appreciate you delaying your recommendation at the end of December in order to thoroughly review and respond to overwhelming stakeholder input. As a growth management advocate, a former state legislator and the King County Councilmember representing the central waterfront, I wish to add my voice to the growing coalition that **urges you to include a bored bypass tunnel, along with surface and transit improvements**, among your recommendations for further environmental review and design.

To be true to our growth management goal of concentrating density in urban areas, our region cannot choose any option for replacing the viaduct that pushes more traffic through the Downtown Seattle core—whether on the surface or above it. I understand that currently, nearly 70 percent of the north-south traffic on the viaduct is pass-through traffic. The bored tunnel provides the most capacity for those through-trips; putting them underground, rather than on city streets or overhead, removes a barrier between downtown and the waterfront and creates a better pedestrian environment for people to live and work downtown. Surface and transit improvements can aid the remaining 30 percent of trips that either start or end downtown.

As you have noted, the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement decision will impact our region for generations, and shape the future of Seattle. I believe that a bored tunnel with surface and transit improvements serves the entire region now and positions us to gracefully meet the future.

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Thank you for considering this input. I sincerely appreciate your efforts to make a careful and responsible decision on behalf of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Larry Phillips, Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council, District Four