
From: Cascadia Center [cascadiacenter@discovery.org]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 4:33 PM
To: Paananen, Ron
Subject: Cascadia News & Views: April 2009



Dear Colleagues,

It has been a good week for Cascadia-supported initiatives.

The Alaskan Way Viaduct. The Washington House approved the deep-bored tunnel alternative for the Viaduct. Congratulations to the SR 99 Coalition for their continued efforts in shepherding this through the Legislature. We expect (and hope) the full approval from the legislature will come by the close of the weekend. Cascadia Center has supported the deep-bored tunnel alternative option since 2005, sponsoring numerous papers and international tunneling forums, including an [Underground Contractors Association tunneling session on May 4, 2009](#), where worldwide experts will be in Seattle meeting with the public and the Washington Department of Transportation. There have been articles in *The Seattle Times*, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *The Puget Sound Business Journal* and elsewhere. [Click here to view the latest.](#)

High-Speed Rail. President Obama has announced a \$13 billion high-speed rail program, which includes the Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene corridor. The Cascadia Center was launched in 1994 on the idea of high-speed rail in this corridor. [Beginning on May 27, 2009, with a train tour to Portland, we will launch a "Beyond Oil" campaign effort to continue through the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver to support an expanded Amtrak Cascades program to improve passenger rail service in our region.](#) [Click here for the agenda.](#)

["High-speed rail in the U.S.: Anyone aboard?"](#) *The Seattle Times/Associated Press*

["Obama's rail plan not so high-speed"](#) *The Oregonian*

["Next stop: A faster train from Seattle to Portland"](#) *The Tacoma News Tribune*

Passenger Ferries. Widespread use of high-speed, low-wake, low-emission passenger ferries built in Puget Sound has also remained a Cascadia priority. Kitsap Transit and All American Marine announced a partnership to connect Bremerton with King County (which has a new ferry district). The Port of Kingston is also exploring a Kingston to Seattle route.

["Kitsap Transit buying high-speed ferry"](#) *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer/Associated Press*

["Kitsap Transit Buying 73 New Vans, Two Ferries"](#) *The Kitsap Sun*

Finally, **SAVE THE DATE** for **"Beyond Oil—Transforming Transportation"** our popular sixth annual conference on tolling, technology, alternative fuels and electrified transportation cosponsored with Microsoft has been set for October 23-24, 2009 at the Microsoft Conference Center in Redmond, Wash.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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