

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: Craig Dalby [craigdalby@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 25, 2008 9:37 PM
To: Paananen, Ron
Subject: Viaduct Options

Hello, Ron.

After hearing more at the meeting on December 15 at Seattle Town Hall about the two scenarios for the viaduct that WSDOT is carrying forward, I'm fairly convinced that both are very seriously flawed. It's also clear that of the original eight options presented a couple months ago the lidded trench or bored tunnel would accommodate the greatest share of stakeholders' interests. However, I understand that they may not be affordable at present.

It was mentioned at the meeting, and I've also seen it in the papers, that the governor and mayor are still interested in other alternatives. I hope that's the case, and assuming it is, I'd like to offer another plan if it's not too late. This might be useful as a final option or as an interim solution until more funding could be secured for one of the tunnel alternatives.

In essence, from King Street to the Aquarium this would be a four lane (two each way) bypass route in a recessed, uncovered trench. From the Aquarium to the Battery Street Tunnel it would be an elevated viaduct, much like the current structure.

This proposal would be similar to the lidded trench scenario, except that from King Street to the Aquarium much of the roadway would be only slightly below grade -- potentially entirely below grade near the ferry terminal -- and there would be no lid. It would also be moved as far east within the right of way as possible and screened on the water side with a landscaped berm to reduce noise for pedestrians on the waterfront. As with the lidded trench, there would be no stoplights or at-grade cross traffic on this segment of Route 99, but with considerably less excavation required this should be a less expensive option. Pedestrian access to the waterfront would be via overhead walkways, a solution that has worked for many years for foot passengers to the ferry terminal.

One of the WSDOT representatives at the meeting on the 15th indicated that no proposal like this was included in the recent charrette. If that's the case, and there's still interest in considering other options, I can provide more details for this alternative.

Thanks for your time.

Craig Dalby

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