



## Construction

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### Viaduct tunnel could cost city \$1B

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

SEATTLE — Seattle will have to come up with more than \$1 billion if it wants to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct with a tunnel. That was the gist of the message conveyed by state lawmakers at a CityClub forum last week.

“The governor is looking at the proposal for a deep-bore tunnel,” said Speaker of the House Frank Chopp (D-Seattle). “The latest idea is to have local taxpayers pay for it.”

The state has reserved \$2.4 billion to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct, which is “the largest commitment ever” to a local project, said Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane.

A deep-bore tunnel would cost \$3.5 billion, according to the latest cost estimates.

The viaduct project team eliminated the tunnel from consideration last month because it was too expensive.

State lawmakers would like to have consensus on the viaduct, said Senate Republican Leader Mike Hewitt, R-Walla Walla. “It is very difficult when the locals can’t make up their own mind,” Hewitt said.

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