



January 13, 2009

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Hon. Christine Gregoire, Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Hon. Ron Sims, King County Executive
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210
Seattle, WA 98104

Hon. Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor
600 Fourth Avenue, Seventh Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce Endorses Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative

Dear Governor Gregoire, Executive Sims and Mayor Nickels,

At its meeting today, the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees voted unanimously, on behalf of the nearly 2,400 member companies we represent in this region, to endorse your proposal to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct with a Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative—an alternative that combines many of the best elements of surface street proposals with a bored tunnel.

We thank you for your leadership and resolve on this matter. Thank you for listening to stakeholders and the broader community and coming to a decision that does four important things: keeps people safe; builds capacity, especially for freight; makes financial sense; and causes as little disruption as possible during construction.

The Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative will maximize new open space on the waterfront, preserve the ability to bypass downtown, reduce construction and operating impacts to businesses and residents, reduce bypass and freight traffic on our city streets, create jobs and provide a long-term return on investment.

It's attractive for those who desire a world-class open space, a welcoming place for pedestrians, bicycles and transit, shoreline restoration, reduced surface-water runoff and reduced vehicle miles traveled.

And it's equally attractive for those interested in preserving a fragile urban landscape with a rich and vibrant center city, stadium area, port, Pike Place Market and waterfront that encourages commerce and supports small businesses.

By arriving at this consensus you have shown that you understand that replacing the viaduct is a 100-year decision that will have an enormous influence on the character of our city and our region. After enduring several years of painful construction and spending billions of taxpayers' money, the region deserves a replacement that pays economic, environmental and aesthetic dividends for decades to come. The Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative does just that.

The looming state budget shortfall has understandably made everyone cost-conscious. But the lowest-cost option is not a bargain if it represents a major missed opportunity and doesn't fulfill the urgent needs of our region and economy.

We believe a Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative provides one of the best long-term returns on investment for our economy and our environment. Our top economists say it can provide up to \$2.7 billion in regional economic benefits and will pay for itself in the next 10 to 20 years.

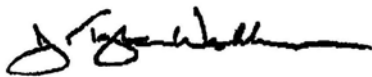
Moreover, a Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative will keep the economy moving. It provides some of the fastest throughput and some of the fastest freight-travel times to and through downtown. It also has the fewest construction impacts and can be built for the most part while the existing viaduct continues to move traffic, thereby minimizing the enormous costs of construction and mitigation to surrounding residents and businesses.

It is important to note that your Letter of Agreement caps the state contribution at \$2.82 billion and ensures that all parties have some 'skin in the game', including King County, the Port of Seattle, the City of Seattle and many of our business members who will be key contributors in a variety of funding programs.

We are entering a new phase of collaboration on this project. Working together, we can keep the region moving forward during replacement of a transportation corridor that is vital to our economic future and quality of life.

We look forward to working with you, your transportation agencies, legislators, councilmembers and stakeholders to move the Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative to final design and construction as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Tayloe Washburn
Chair



Steve Leahy
President and CEO

Cc: Senate Majority Leader **Lisa Brown**
Senator **Mary Margaret Haugen**
Speaker of the House **Frank Chopp**
Representative **Judy Clibborn**
Entire **Washington State Legislature**
King County Councilmember **Dow Constantine**
Entire **King County Council**
Seattle City Councilmember **Jan Drago**
Entire **Seattle City Council**
Secretary of Transportation **Paula Hammond**
Port of Seattle CEO **Tay Yoshitani**

WSDOT Deputy Secretary **David Dye**
Governor's Senior Advisor **Ron Judd**
Governor's Policy Advisor **Jennifer Ziegler**
KCDOT Director **Harold Taniguchi**
Seattle Deputy Mayor **Tim Ceis**
SDOT Director **Grace Crunican**
WSDOT Project Director **Ron Paananen**
SDOT Project Director **Bob Chandler**
PB Project Manager **Mike Rigsby**
Independent Project Manager **Jim Parsons**