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**From:** Lenz, KaDeena (Consultant)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009 5:31 PM  
**To:** WSDOT MediaContacts  
**Cc:** Coon, Melanie; Paananen, Ron; White, John; Preedy, Matt; Greco, Theresa; Grotefendt, Amy (Consultant); Van Ness, Kristy (Consultant)  
**Subject:** Media Contact 5/13, Viaduct

Seattle PostGlobe

Larry Lange interviewed Ron Paananen, Urban Corridors Administrator, about next steps for the Alaskan Way Viaduct program. Lange asked questions about the environmental process, construction of the south end, cost estimates, bored tunnel legislation, portal and waterfront working groups, and 2009 elections. Lange seemed particularly interested in why we are building the south end now and not waiting until after the bored tunnel is complete. Paananen explained that building the south end now 1) removes some of the risk by replacing 40 percent of the vulnerable structure; 2) gets the work done now instead of adding three years to tunnel construction; 3) spends the money now instead of waiting for inflation to kick in; and 4) simplifies construction staging and traffic maintenance. Paananen emphasized that next steps include advancing tunnel design, working with the community, working on the environmental documentation, and finalizing the contracting strategy.