

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: Paananen, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 11:50 AM
To: Stone, Craig
Subject: Viaduct Announcement

Attachments: Bored Tunnel LOA.pdf



Bored Tunnel
LOA.pdf (534 KB)

How does this look for an UCO all staff message?

Today was a milestone for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Program. Many of you have probably seen or heard the news of today's announcement that the viaduct will be replaced with a 4 lane bored tunnel. The tunnel will carry a realigned SR 99 away from the central waterfront and connect surface SR 99 near Qwest Field on the south end and near Harrison Street, north of the Battery Street Tunnel. The Governor, Mayor and County Executive also announced other transportation improvements for City Streets and in transit service. The attached letter of agreement formalizes the commitment of the three agencies and responsibilities for funding and implementing the projects identified in the program. The State's responsibility is to identify funding for, and construct the bored tunnel, complete the moving forward projects, and demolish the existing viaduct.

The announcement is the culmination of a lengthy stakeholder process lead by the City, County and State to come to a consensus decision on the best way to resolve a very complicated set of questions. In the end, the decision to pursue a bored tunnel along with City Street and Transit improvements gained broad support and clearly became the right choice.

With this agreement, the project team has a new challenge and a focused project to pursue. The Governor and Paula have set an aggressive goal of opening the new tunnel to traffic in 2015. John White has a lot of things he's thinking about right now and there a many questions about the best way to get the tunnel built. It will be exciting as we work to finalize the details of the project over the next few months and pursue it to completion.

Stay tuned, and thanks for everyone that contributed to getting us to a pivotal point in the project.

Craig and Ron.