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Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Frank Chopp; Judy Clibborn; Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen
Cc: Jennifer Ziegler; Ron Sims; Paananen, Ron
Subject: Emailing: 2009-02-12 San Francisco 032, ALID Poster#2 (3), 2009-02-12 San Francisco 025
Attachments: 2009-02-12 San Francisco 032.jpg; ALID Poster#2 (3).jpg; 2009-02-12 San Francisco 025.jpg

I just returned from SF to check out the Embarcadero that our WSDOT Study Team seems to think is what we should convert our Waterfront to look like. Drawings of our People-Place Waterfront show a transportation-dominated ambience, a copycat of the Embarcadero.

Since their viaduct collapsed in the Loma Prieta earthquake (1989), the traffic has simply moved to the surface boulevard (attachment 025) with numerous stoplights (attachment 032). The roar of traffic is less than our Viaduct (where tire noise from the southbound lane bounces off the underside of our upper deck, magnifying the annoyance); but it certainly is not the quiet car-free People Place we all want.

Instead of our 180-feet of right-of-way, they have 240-feet, giving room to spread out the traffic. But it is not a place you would want to have a picnic. We can do better (check ALID Poster #2, attached). Since our Downtown is located on a hill, level pedestrian overpasses from First Avenue fit well here, providing safer, faster access between Downtown and the Promenade.

This not to say the deep-bore tunnel is a bad idea; but is surely a reminder that we haven't yet Got It Right..

Dave Petrie

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