

## The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program



### Central Waterfront

Freight Mobility Advisory Committee

Feb. 17, 2009

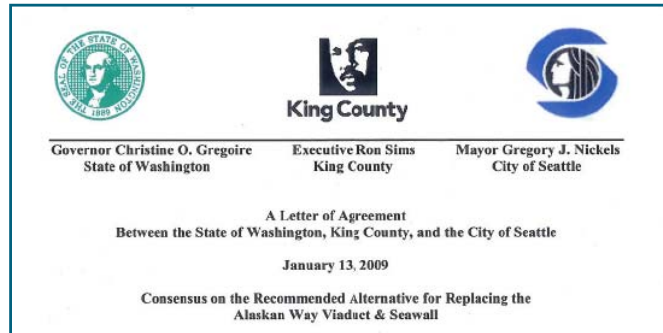


#### Ron Paananen

- Thank you for inviting us to speak with your group today and provide some of the details about how we're going to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

## Letter of Agreement

On Jan. 13, 2009, Governor Gregoire, King County Executive Sims and Mayor Nickels signed a letter of agreement signifying their support of the bored tunnel hybrid alternative.



### Ron Paananen

- On January 13, Governor Gregoire, Executive Sims and Mayor Nickels recommended that the central section of the Alaskan Way Viaduct be replaced with a 4-lane bored tunnel, a new surface street and pedestrian promenade along the waterfront, improvements to city streets, a First Avenue Streetcar and additional transit service.
- The recommendation was based on the results of an in-depth technical analysis, work with our stakeholder advisory committee, 8 public meetings, and hundreds of public comments over the past year.
- A Letter of Agreement signed by the three executives can be found on the program Web site.

## Systems Solution

Upon evaluation of the new project area and with a clear direction to consider the entire system of streets, the three executives recommended that investments be made in:

- Improved city streets
- Enhanced transit service
- New bored tunnel



### Ron Paananen

- The state, county and city transportation agencies approached the problem by looking at the entire system of streets, transit service, and freeways from Lake Washington to Elliott Bay, and from NE 85th Street in the north to Seattle's city limits in the south.
- In the end, we evaluated eight scenarios to replace the viaduct. The bored tunnel with transit and city street improvements provided the most benefit for the city and region.
- The three executives agreed that a solution to replace the AWV should consider the entire system, and should look at how we might use I-5, transit, surface streets, and policy and management tools to provide mobility rather than simply rebuilding all the capacity wholly in the SR-99 corridor.



**Ron Paananen**

- This map shows the different components of the bored tunnel hybrid alternative. The alternative includes:
  - Single bored tunnel under First Ave., two-lanes in each direction.
  - Southern portal near Qwest and Safeco Fields, connecting to Aurora Ave. north of the Battery Street Tunnel.
  - Replacement of Seattle’s seawall from Colman Dock to Pine St.
  - A new surface boulevard from S. Royal Brougham Way to Western Ave.
  - Investments in Mercer and Spokane streets.
  - Increased transit service to improve access to and through downtown Seattle.
  - A First Avenue streetcar.
  
- Improvements to I-5 are still necessary and there were a lot of good ideas that came out of the scenario review process. Those ideas are now being pursued under a separate project.

## Improve City Streets

The improvement of City streets throughout Seattle will be important to the success of this solution. Projects underway include:

### **Mercer Street Project:**

- Creates enhanced east-west connections.
- Improves connections from I-5 and the bored tunnel to Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay.
- Enhances connections between high density neighborhoods as well as the Seattle Center.

### **Spokane Street Project:**

- Provides critical connections between the Port, West Seattle, I-5, I-90 and SR 99.
- Improves westbound traffic flow and safety.
- Minimizes conflicts between freight, rail, commuters and ferry traffic.

## **Eric Tweit**

City street improvements are an important component of this solution. Projects underway include:

### **Mercer Street Project:**

- Improves connections from I-5 and the bored tunnel to Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay.
- Creates enhanced east-west connections.
- Improves connections from Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay to I-5 and the bored tunnel.
- Enhances connections between high density neighborhoods as well as the Seattle Center.

### **Spokane Street Project:**

- Provides critical connections between the Port, West Seattle, I-5, I-90 and SR 99.
- Improves westbound traffic flow and safety.
- Minimizes conflicts between freight, rail, commuters and ferry traffic.

## Enhance Transit Service

Transit enhancements will provide important mobility during and after construction and are critical to the success of the bored tunnel solution.

- Enhanced service to accommodate demand
  - Additional bus service
  - First Ave. Streetcar
- Access to downtown
- Construction mitigation
- Environment



### Eric Tweit

Transit is also critical to the success of this alternative.

#### Enhanced service to accommodate demand

- Expanded transit will be needed to accommodate increases in travel demand that will come with the expected growth in the region. Buses are projected to provide between 34 and 39 percent of all morning peak period trips to downtown. Without improved transit, many of these trips will be taken by other means such as private vehicle. The increased transit service proposed is consistent with the city and region's growth policies.

#### Access to downtown

- The bored tunnel will provide a through route for traffic to bypass downtown Seattle. With this alternative, SR 99 will no longer have mid-town ramps at Seneca and Columbia or at Elliott and Western. The AWW transit package includes capital projects such as transit priority pathways to help transit provide fast, reliable service to and from downtown Seattle. These capital improvements along with expanded bus service are needed to provide the public with quick reliable options traveling to and from downtown.

#### Construction mitigation

- Transit is essential to keep people moving during construction. As part of the Moving Forward projects, King County Metro received \$32 million for transit service to keep people moving during construction in particular the south end construction. The construction impacts of the central waterfront and the other elements such as the seawall are not determined at this time.

## Bored Tunnel

A bored tunnel under First Avenue is the new SR 99. Some features include:

- Least traffic and business disruptions during construction.
- Two lanes of traffic, with shoulders, in each direction.
- Approximately 1.7 miles long.
- Between 30 and 200 feet underground.
- Flammables prohibited in tunnel



### Ron Paananen

- The bored tunnel will be approximately 1.7 miles long .
- We expect to begin construction in 2011 and open the tunnel to drivers in 2015.
- Alaskan Way will carry 25,000 vehicles each day -- some of the increase will be from the traffic that currently gets on the viaduct using the ramps at Elliott and Western avenues. Depending on their destinations – these trips will have two choices in the future: they can use Alaskan Way on the waterfront to get through downtown Seattle or they can enter the tunnel north of Denny Way.
- I am sure many of you have heard from drivers that use these ramps today and are unhappy about the change in their driving route, which will take longer than today. In addition to drivers, it also affects companies that transfer freight and fishing supplies (including hazardous oil) between the SODO and Port industrial areas and the Interbay industrial area.
- We will be setting up a regular working group with freight interests and other representatives from the NW Seattle neighborhoods to work through these issues and identify the best strategies for addressing those impacts.

## **Maintains Capacity through Downtown**

The bored tunnel alternative:

- The tunnel will carry 85,000 vehicles through downtown Seattle each day at year of opening (with room to grow). Surface Alaskan Way will carry about 25,000 vehicles per day.
- Maintains today's travel times for trips through downtown.
- Accommodates in-city trips through new investments in local streets and transit.
  - New bus service will carry approximately 17,000 additional daily riders, primarily serving northwest and southwest Seattle.
- Improvements to I-5 further expand north-south vehicle capacity and provide improvements in travel times.

### **Ron Paananen**

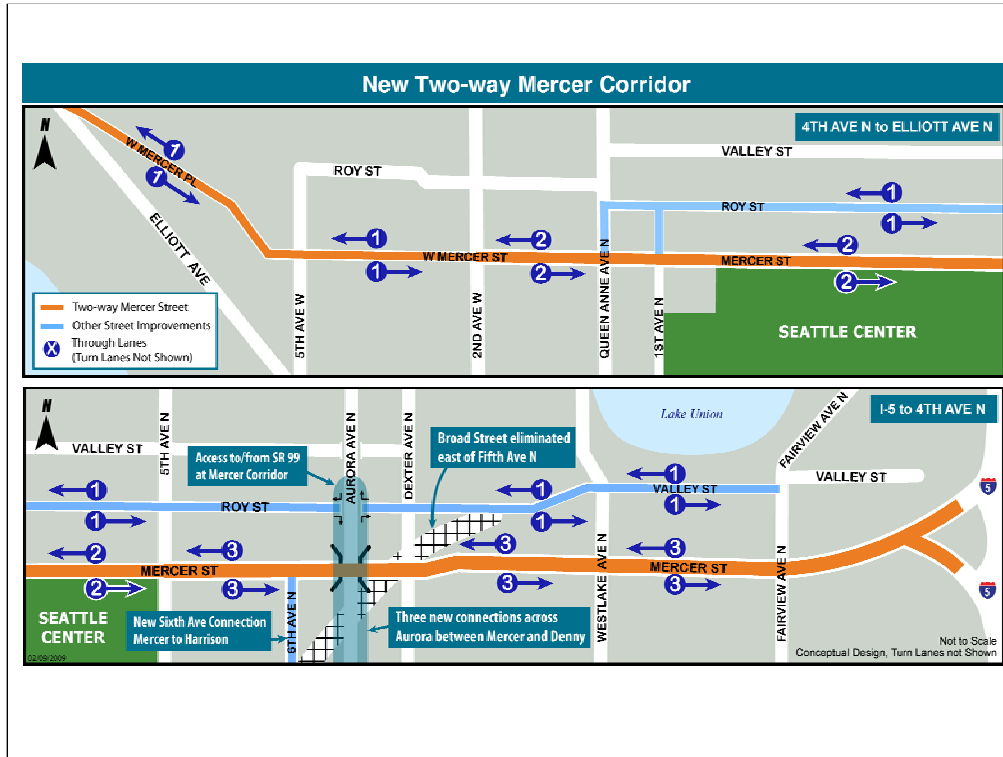
- The bored tunnel will carry 85,000 vehicles each day through downtown Seattle in 2015 when it opens, and has capacity to accommodate more as the region grows. It also maintains today's travel times for through trips. This will keep vehicles off the downtown street system, creating a better environment for bikes, walkers, and transit.
- In addition, the other investments made in city streets and transit will carry approximately 17,000 additional daily riders, primarily serving the west Seattle neighborhoods, like Ballard and West Seattle, that rely on the viaduct to get to or through downtown today.
- This accommodates the 60,000 to 65,000 vehicles that currently use BST with room for more than half of the traffic that now uses the Elliott/Western ramps.





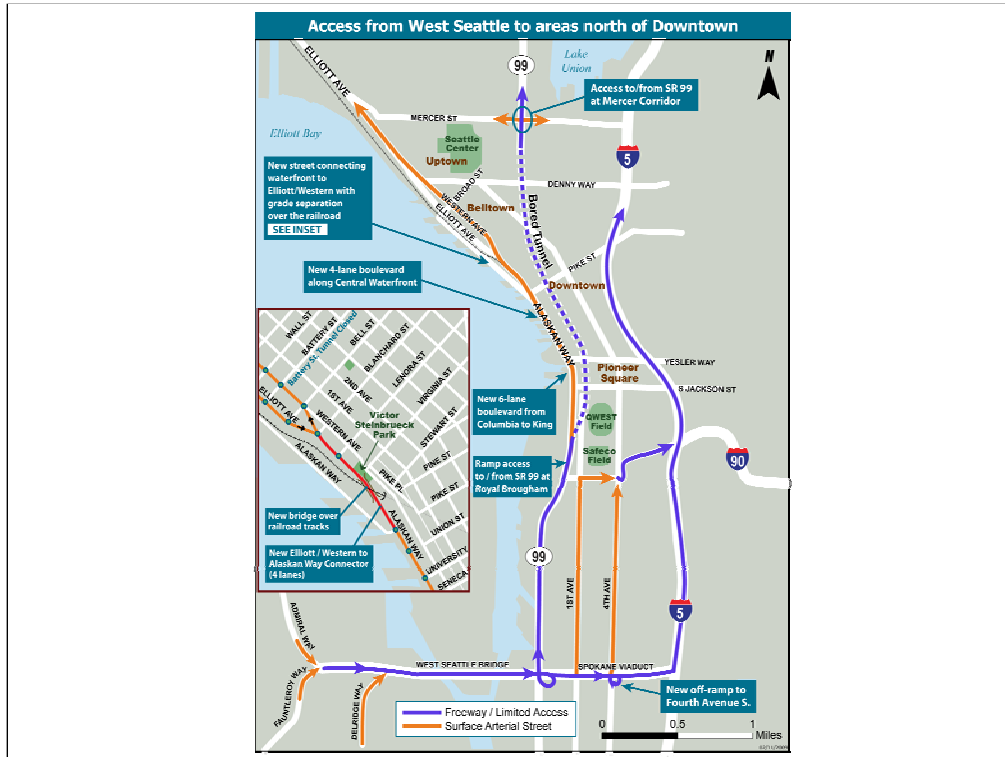
## Eric Tweit

- The bored tunnel and related improvements will maintain all freight connections to Ballard and Interbay.
- All trucks, except those with hazardous or flammable materials, will be allowed to use the bored tunnel. Grades in the tunnel, as well as uphill ramps to & from the tunnel will be 5% or less.
- Trucks, including those with hazardous or flammable materials, will also use the Alaskan Way to Elliott/Western route. Grades on the new connector will be 6% or less. This will also be the over-size vehicle route.
- Two-way Mercer will provide a new westbound option for trucks bound for Interbay from I-5 and the bored tunnel. (the grade on Mercer Place is about 5 1/2 %)



## Eric Tweit

- Here is more detail of Two-way Mercer Street from I-5 to Elliott Ave W.
- Mercer will be widened to accommodate 3 lanes in each direction, as well as left-turn lanes between Fairview and Fifth Ave N. The underpass at Aurora will have wider sidewalks and a bike path, as well. (bikes will use Roy street to the east and west of Aurora)
- We are also looking at the projected demand and traffic operations on Mercer Place and at the Elliott Ave W intersection to determine if improvements are needed along that stretch.
- At Aurora/SR 99 - We are working on options for design of the north portal area, but I can discuss the general concept.
- Traffic will exit and enter Aurora at points north and south of Mercer, using existing streets, such as Roy and Republican to tie into the street grid.
- Dexter Avenue North and sixth Avenue North will serve as distributors of traffic from SR 99 to Mercer and other streets.
- There will be up to three additional crossings of Aurora south of Mercer Street to re-connect Uptown and South Lake Union and relieve Mercer.



**Eric Tweit**

- West Seattle will have similar options for getting through downtown as they do today.
- The one change will be the route along the waterfront. They will exit SR 99 just before the tunnel portal, near the stadiums, and travel north along Alaskan Way and use the new connection to Elliott and Western.

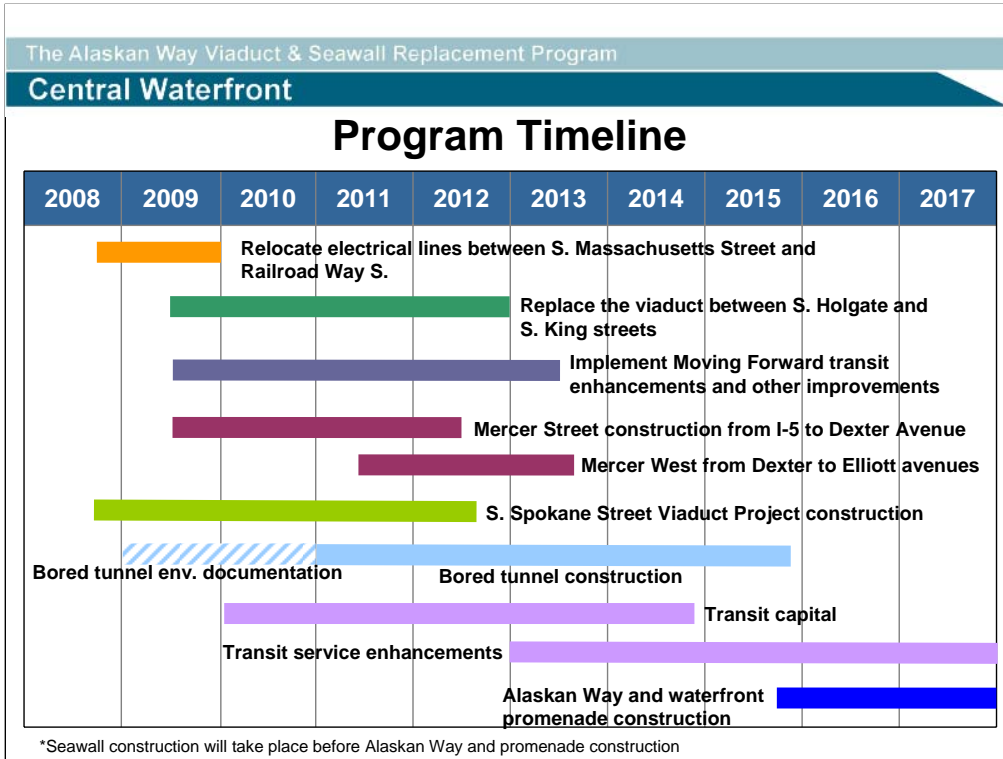
The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Program					
Central Waterfront					
Fiscal Responsibility					
	Proposed Project Implementation Responsibility				Costs
	State	King County MVET	City of Seattle	Port of Seattle ***	
Moving Forward and Prior Expenditures	\$600 million			\$300 million	\$900 million*
SR 99 Bored Tunnel	\$1.9 billion**				\$1.9 billion
Alaskan Way Surface Street and Promenade	\$290 million		\$100 million		\$390 million
Central Seawall			\$255 million		\$255 million
Utility Relocation			\$250 million		\$250 million
City Streets and Transit Pathways		\$25 million	\$190 million		\$215 million
Transit Infrastructure and Services		\$115 million	\$135 million		\$250 million
Construction Transit Service	\$30 million	\$50 million			\$80 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.82 billion</b>	<b>\$190 million</b>	<b>\$930 million</b>	<b>\$300 million</b>	<b>\$4.24 billion</b>
Transit Operations Annual Cost		\$15 million			\$15 million

\*Reflects cost savings from Moving Forward program realized by not repairing the viaduct from Lenora to Battery Street Tunnel and not completing the second phase of fire and life safety upgrades to the Battery Street Tunnel.  
\*\*Reflects the most likely cost based on a conceptual design. The potential cost range is between \$1.2 billion and \$2.2 billion.  
\*\*\*Agreement in concept for up to \$300 million subject to Port of Seattle Commission review and approval.

## Ron Paananen

The plan makes financial sense and will support a strong economy.

- The state, county, and city have all agreed to be part of making this solution a reality by working with their legislative bodies to fund their portions of the project. The Port of Seattle has also committed to work toward funding a portion of the project.
- **State**
- The state's component of the alternative is made up of the bored tunnel, the Alaskan Way surface street and promenade and the Moving Forward projects.
  - Moving Forward and prior expenditures = \$600m (Port to contribute \$300m)
  - SR 99 bored tunnel = 1.9b
  - Alaskan Way surface street and promenade = \$290m
  - Construction transit service = \$30m
- The bored tunnel estimated cost is 1.9 billion including risk and contingency.
- **King County**
  - City street and transit pathways = \$25m
  - Transit infrastructure and services = \$115m
  - Construction transit service = \$50m
  - Annual operating costs = \$15m
- **City of Seattle**
  - Alaskan Way surface street and promenade = \$100m
  - Central seawall = \$255m
  - Utility relocation = \$250
  - City streets and transit pathways = \$190m
  - Transit infrastructure and services = \$135m
- Each agency is responsible for their cost overruns or cost savings, which means that the state will be responsible for any tunnel overruns.

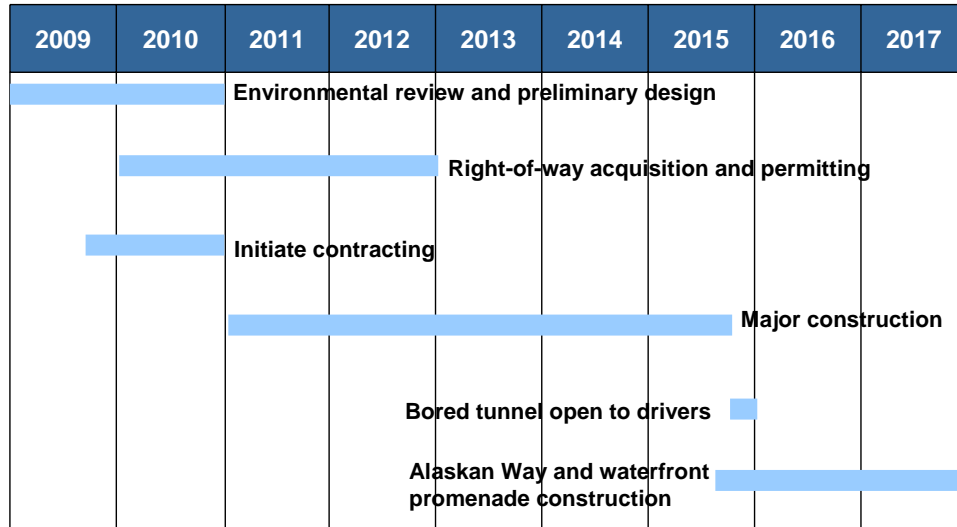


## Ron Paananen

- Construction will start this year on the south mile of the viaduct, and transit and city street investments to keep people and goods moving during the work.
- The Mercer Street and Spokane Street projects will be completed in 2012.

**Central Waterfront**

**Bored Tunnel Project Timeline**



**Ron Paananen**

- For the bored tunnel, we will complete the environmental review and preliminary design by the end of 2010.
- Major construction will begin in 2011 and we will be able to open the bored tunnel to drivers in 2015.

## Central Waterfront

### Bored Tunnel Hybrid

- Improves public safety.
- Encourages job creation and health of the regional economy.
- Maintains movement of people and goods for trips to and through downtown.
- Improves pedestrian access.
- Improves transit frequency and reliability.
- Minimizes construction and traffic impacts.
- Improves key east/west city street connections.
- Reconnects downtown and Elliott Bay, creating a world-class waterfront.



### Ron Paananen

- The bored tunnel hybrid benefits the region in multiple ways. By providing a bypass facility under downtown and by improving transit and city streets, there is a lot to gain.

## South End Update

- Holgate to King project fits well with Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative
- Major design elements unchanged south of Royal Brougham
- Transition structures and detours now in design
- On schedule:
  - Utility relocation summer 2009
  - Road and bridge construction early 2010

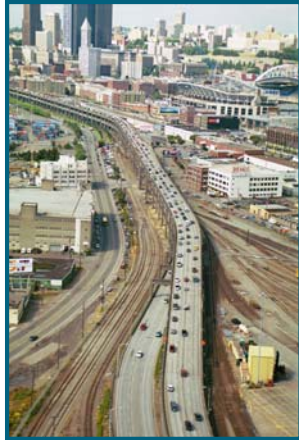


### Ron Paananen

- Some of you may be wondering how the bored tunnel decision will affect the south end
- The most important thing to note is that the Holgate to King project fits well with the bored tunnel alternative
- When we were here in December we talked with you about the different stages of the project. As we said then, our goal all along was to design the Holgate to King project from south to north, knowing that the transition to the central waterfront would vary greatly depending on what type of replacement the executives chose.
- As a result, the major design elements of the Holgate to King project, including the u-tube, are unchanged south of Royal Brougham.
- We are now designing transition structures and new detours, which will change some from what we showed you in December. We'll be sure to update you on that once we have more details.
- We are on schedule to start construction this summer on stage 1, which will relocate utilities in the project area and prepare us to begin road and bridge work early next year.



## **Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program**



**Follow our progress: [www.alaskanwayviaduct.org](http://www.alaskanwayviaduct.org)**

### **Ron Paananen**

- Our Web site contains a wealth of information about the project. I encourage you to visit and look around.

Back Pocket

## Central Waterfront

### Support a Strong State and Regional Economy

The bored tunnel alternative:

- Maintains capacity in the SR 99 corridor.
- Preserves I-5 for state and regional through trips.
- Provides room for freight and port traffic to grow.
- Minimal impacts to waterfront businesses and the local community.
- Maintains and creates 10,000 jobs each year over the course of the project.



### Ron Paananen

- Since the project began and even more so during these difficult economic times we have heard many questions about disruptions during construction. Many supporters of this option like the fact that it give us the opportunity to keep traffic on the viaduct during construction and moves construction under downtown Seattle. It also minimizes construction impacts on waterfront businesses, which was a significant concern about the proposed cut-and-cover tunnel.
- A construction project of this size will also create jobs – we estimate that 10,000 jobs will be supported by this project each year.
- It also preserves I-5 as a through route for the region and state and ensures future investments accommodate expected growth.

## Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET)

### What is it?

Tax based on value of vehicle paid at the time of registration

Need Washington State legislative authority to impose MVET

Asking for a 1% MVET on all vehicles in King County (medium and heavy duty trucks exempt)

### What can the 1% King County MVET do?

Estimated annual yield of \$120-145 million

Approximately \$100/vehicle

Revenues will be used to:

- Fund transit service associated with the project
- Fill the Metro sales tax shortfall
- Expand Metro's transit system

Provides stable revenue source to sustain ongoing transit service

## HAROLD TANIGUCHI

•To help pay for the King County portion of the bored tunnel hybrid, we are proposing a 1% MVET for all motor vehicles in King County, medium to heavy duty trucks are exempt.

•We will need legislative authority to impose this tax through a councilmanic action.

## **Why do we need MVET?**

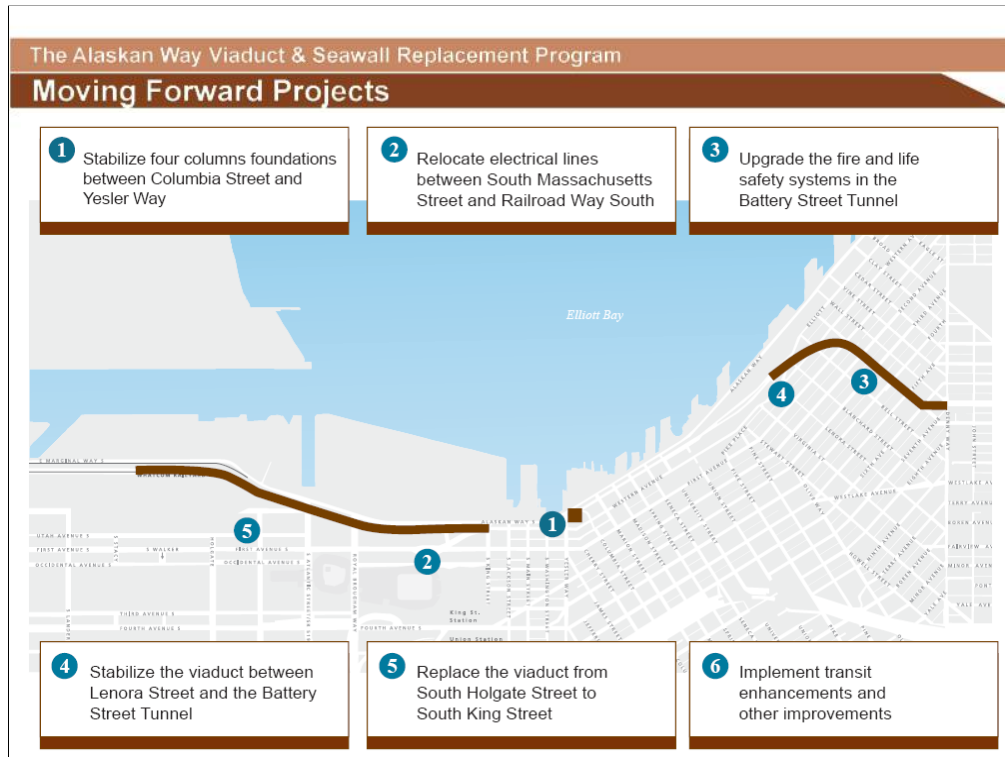
### **Increased demand for transit**

- Metro has set ridership growth records for the past 3 years.
- 20 percent increase in ridership since 2006.

### **Funding Shortfall**

- Metro is facing an annual revenue shortfall of \$60 million or more in 2010, due to economic decline and heavy reliance on sales tax.
- If the funding gap is not addressed in the next year, Metro will likely need to reduce its system by as much as one-sixth – over 500,000 annual hours of service.

**Harold Taniguchi**



- The agreement to move forward on the north and south end improvements means we will be taking a significant step forward to reduce the risk to public safety posed by the viaduct.
- The improvements will cost approximately \$900 million. The money was included in the budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.
- All of these improvements will be designed and constructed to work with the bored tunnel.
- We are working to deliver these projects on time and on budget.

## Decision-Making Process

Along the way, three groups met regularly to review technical analysis and weigh-in on the options considered for replacing the central waterfront. Those groups were:

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Interagency Working Group
- Executive Oversight Committee

### Stakeholder Advisory Committee

- 29 individuals representing communities, economic interests and cause-driven organizations.
- Met 16 times over a 13-month period to review and provide comment to program staff.

### Interagency Working Group

- 14 agencies reviewed and provided input on the technical details of waterfront replacement options.

### Project Oversight Committee:

- Included the Governor, King County Executive, Mayor, State Senate Transportation Chair, State House Transportation Chair, King County Council Transportation Chair and Seattle City Council Transportation Chair.
- Reviewed options and analysis throughout the 13-month period.



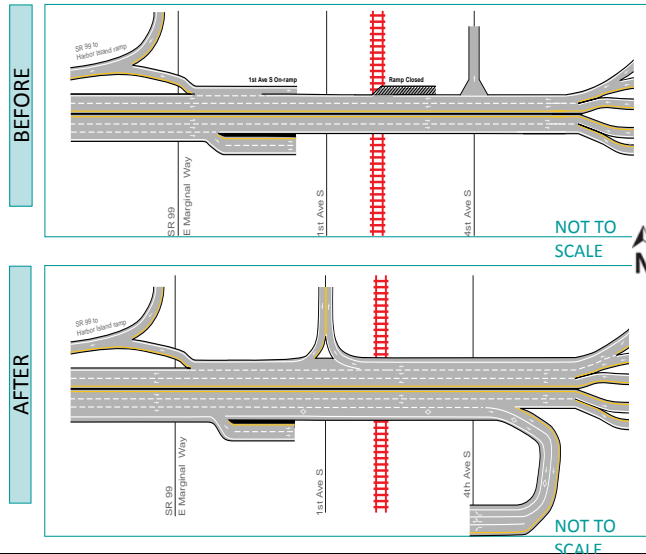
- The bored tunnel alternative is made up of more than just the bored tunnel.
- It includes a new Alaskan Way along the waterfront, as well as a pedestrian promenade. It also includes improvements to several city streets including Mercer and Spokane streets, and increased transit service.



Central Waterfront

# Spokane Street Project

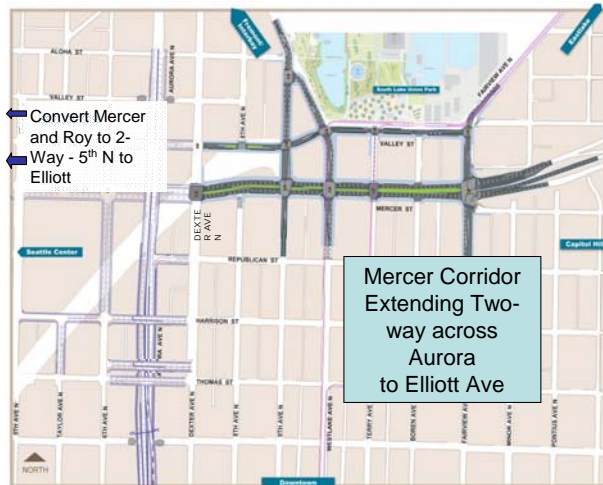
- Provides critical connections between the Port, West Seattle, I-5, I-90 and SR 99.
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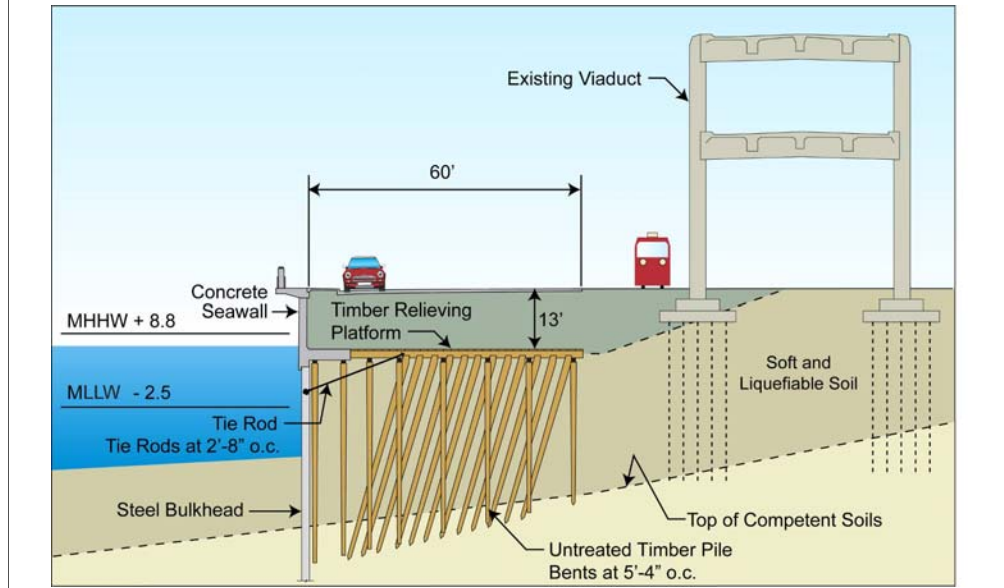
## Mercer Corridor Project

- Creates enhanced east-west connections.
- Improves connections from Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay to I-5 and the bored tunnel.
- Removes barriers, such as turn restrictions, and makes it easier to get around by car, truck, foot or bike.
- Enhanced connections between high density neighborhoods as well as the Seattle Center.



- Improves connections from I-5 and the bored tunnel to Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay.
- Creates enhanced east-west connections.
- Improves connections from Ballard/Magnolia/Interbay to I-5 and the bored tunnel.
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## Replacing the Seawall (Washington to Pine)



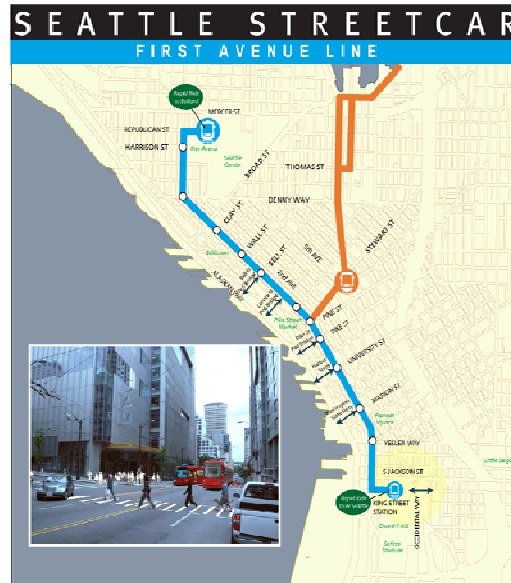
- Many think that the seawall is just the cement that you can see from the piers, but in actuality, the seawall goes back sixty feet under Alaskan Way and needs to be replaced.

- The seawall is over 70 years old and is at risk for failure due to age, deterioration and the soft soils in which it is built.

Central Waterfront

# First Avenue Streetcar

- Connects to the First Hill Streetcar.
- Connects to Ballard and West Seattle RapidRide lines.
- Connects to Amtrak, Commuter Rail and Light Rail at King Street Station.
- Provides easy access to Colman Dock.
- Connects major activity centers: Seattle Center, Pike Place Market and the stadium area.



- Connects to the existing South Lake Union Streetcar and the Sound Transit-funded First Hill Streetcar.
- Connects to King County Metro's RapidRide bus rapid transit lines to Ballard and West Seattle.
- Connects to Amtrak, Commuter Rail and Light Rail at King Street Station.
- Easy access to Washington State Ferries.
- Connects major activity centers including Seattle Center, Pike Place Market and Seahawks/Mariners stadium area.
- Expected to carry 4 million riders per year, comparable to Portland Streetcar and San Francisco Embarcadero Line.
- \$135 M, including 8-vehicle fleet capable of providing service every 6 minutes.

## Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET)

### What is it?

- Tax based on value of vehicle paid at the time of registration.
- Need Washington State legislative authority to impose MVET.
- Asking for a 1% MVET on all vehicles in King County (medium and heavy duty trucks exempt)

### What can the 1% King County MVET do?

- Estimated annual yield of \$120 million to \$145 million.
- Approximately \$100/vehicle.
- Revenues will be used to:
  - Fund transit service associated with the project.
  - Fill the Metro sales tax shortfall.
  - Expand Metro's transit system.
- Provides stable revenue source to sustain ongoing transit service

- To help pay for the King County portion of the bored tunnel hybrid, we are proposing a 1% MVET for all motor vehicles in King County, medium to heavy duty trucks are exempt.
- We will need legislative authority to charge this tax through King County Council action.
- We estimate that this authority would generate \$120 million and \$145 million in funding each year, costing the average vehicle owner \$100.
- Funding will be used to fund the transit service as part of the bored tunnel recommendation, fill the county's current sales tax shortfall, and expand Metro's transit service throughout the county.

## **Next Steps**

- Coordinate with freight community to ensure viable freight routes and connections.
- Get legislative approval for necessary funding.
- Work with the City, County and Port to coordinate project implementation.
- Complete environmental review process.
- Develop additional preliminary engineering and soils exploration.
- Meet with community groups and businesses to finalize design.

We have a lot to do over the next several months, including:

- Coordinate with freight community to ensure viable freight routes and connections.
- Get legislative approval for necessary funding.
- Work with the City, County and Port to coordinate project implementation.
- Complete environmental review process.
- Develop additional preliminary engineering and soils exploration.
- Meet with community groups and businesses to finalize design.

## Improve Public Safety

The bored tunnel alternative keeps the public safe by:

- Improving lane and shoulder widths.
- Installing modern fire protection safety equipment, including emergency exits.

Tunnels perform better in earthquakes than bridges.

- Structural engineers agree that tunnels are one of the safest places to be during an earthquake because a tunnel moves with the earth.

- The bored tunnel will be designed to safely accommodate all vehicles, including freight, and will meet today's national safety standards with ventilation systems, emergency access, and wider lanes and shoulders than are on the viaduct today and can accommodate disabled vehicles. As with the Battery Street Tunnel, vehicles carrying flammable materials will not be allowed in the bored tunnel.
- There have also been concerns expressed about whether a tunnel is a safe place to be in an earthquake. Structural engineers will tell you that tunnels are one of the safest places to be in an earthquake – the BART tunnel under San Francisco Bay in the late 1980s was re-opened hours after the earthquake and after safety inspections were conducted.
- Drivers in the Puget Sound region are also used to driving in tunnels – there are tunnels on I-90 in Seattle and Mercer Island; the Battery Street Tunnel is on the north end of the viaduct today; and riders will be traveling under Beacon Hill in a bored tunnel later this year when LINK light rail opens.

## Central Waterfront

# Enhance Seattle's Waterfront, Downtown and Adjacent Neighborhoods

The bored tunnel alternative:

- Moves SR 99 underground and eliminates noise, shadowing and view blockage from the existing viaduct.
- Reconnects downtown with the natural environment in Elliott Bay.
- Creates a memorable place for people to live, work and play.



- The bored tunnel also creates a world-class waterfront and helps ensure Seattle is a 21st Century city.
- A 21st Century city needs to send the right message to the world to attract visitors and investments. Removing the viaduct will re-connect the city with its waterfront and create a world-class destination. This will make our economy stronger and leave a legacy we can take pride in.
- The waterfront will also be better for people and the natural environment. The plan builds a new promenade for people to play and work without the noise, shadows, and dust from the viaduct. It also eliminates many of the 110,000 vehicles from the water's edge that contribute to air and stormwater pollution.



## Improve the Health of the Environment

The bored tunnel alternative:

- Creates a new system to improve and handle storm water runoff.
- Creates new transit, bike and pedestrian connections.
- Adds one million hours of new transit service.



- And finally, the bored tunnel will help us improve the natural environment by removing the viaduct from the waterfront. This will allow us to better treat the stormwater run-off from the highway.
- It will also encourage people to get out of their cars and find new ways to move around downtown – whether it is by foot, bike, or on transit.

**Central Waterfront**

**How is the bored tunnel different from the cut-and-cover tunnel?**

<b>Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative</b>	<b>Previous Cut-and-Cover Tunnel Alternative</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacked with two lanes in each direction.</li> <li>• Constructed under First Avenue.</li> <li>• Top of tunnel is 30 to 200 feet below the surface.</li> <li>• Viaduct can stay open to traffic while the tunnel is being built.</li> <li>• Construction is estimated to take 4.5 years.</li> <li>• Limits impacts to waterfront businesses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacked with three lanes in each direction.</li> <li>• Constructed along the waterfront.</li> <li>• Top of tunnel is 10 feet below the surface.</li> <li>• Viaduct would have been closed for 3.5 years under the “short” construction plan.</li> <li>• Construction was estimated to take 7 years under the “short” construction plan.</li> <li>• Would cause major impacts to waterfront businesses.</li> </ul>

- It is easy to compare this tunnel with the cut-and-cover tunnel previously considered on the central waterfront – they are very different in fact.
- This bored tunnel moves the major construction area away from the central waterfront and loose fill to dense hard soil under downtown. It also gives us the opportunity to keep the viaduct open during construction to minimize impacts to the traveling public and business due to longer trips. The overall construction period is also shorter.
- And very importantly, it moves the major construction zone away from the waterfront, which limits the impacts on waterfront businesses. There will still be impacts during construction on the waterfront with the demolition of the viaduct, construction of a new surface street, and replacement of a seawall. However, it eliminates the need to dig a 60-foot deep trench outside their front doors.

# Alaskan Way Bored Tunnel vs. Boston's Big Dig

## More differences than similarities

### Boston's Big Dig Central Artery/Tunnel

Substantially larger and more complex including:

1. Very disruptive cut-and-cover tunnel through the central city under the existing elevated roadway and 2 subway lines.
  2. A signature cable-stayed bridge over the Charles River, cut-and-cover through South Boston.
  3. Two sets of immersed tubes under the harbor to the airport and the complex interchange with very poor geotechnical conditions.
- Project was disruptive and required extensive traffic management and mitigation.
  - The initial project cost number did not include added scope, mitigation and environmental requirements, inflation and appropriate allowance for risk and escalation.
  - The Central Artery/Tunnel did not have a strong agency management or consistent leadership throughout the course of the project.
  - As a result, the project was delivered grossly over budget and years behind schedule.

	Bored Tunnel & South End Project	Big Dig Projects
Total Project Length	2.8 miles	8 miles
Number of tunnels*	1	3
Length of tunnels*	2 miles	5 miles
Total lane miles	12.8 miles	>161 miles

\*Boston Big Dig tunnels included cut-and-cover, immersed tubes, jacked tunnel and other special tunneling methods.

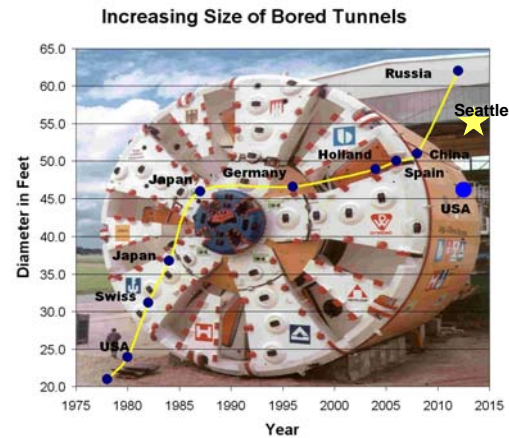
### SR 99 Bored Tunnel

- Project will run 30-200 feet underground minimizing traffic disruption and impacts to the waterfront and downtown
- WSDOT uses the CEVP® process on all state projects over \$100M to ensure costs are complete, reasonable, defensible and appropriately represent risk and uncertainties.
- WSDOT is a strong owner in policy, management and technical capability and Governor Gregoire is project authority
- WSDOT will maintain this strength over the life of the project, assisted by eminent private-sector engineers and contractors
  - Accountable to the public, Governor and Legislature

- If you just consider the size and scale of the project you will see there are more differences than similarities.
- Our total project length, including the south mile of the viaduct which will begin construction this year, is 2.8 miles. The Big Dig was 8 miles long.
- We are proposing one tunnel. Three were built in Boston. This tunnel will be approximately 2 miles long; Boston's were 5 miles long.
- We have gone back and met with the program team and project owner to understand what worked and what didn't work on the Big Dig. We are then applying those lessons learned to this project and other WSDOT projects. One example is the CEVP process that we now use to estimate costs.

## Tunneling Technology

- Tunneling technology is rapidly advancing, with tunnel boring machines as large as 62 feet in diameter on order.
- Successful tunnel boring machine projects:
  - Sound Transit Beacon Hill: 21 feet in diameter
  - Hamburg and Moscow: 46.6 feet in diameter
  - Madrid: 50 feet in diameter
  - Shanghai: 50.6 feet in diameter



- The tunnel we have proposed would be 54 feet in diameter. If opened today, it would be the biggest bored tunnel in the world.
- However, there are tunnels that have opened that are very close in size, including in Madrid and Shanghai and there is a tunnel in the planning phase in Russia that will be 62 feet.

## Tunneling in Seattle Soils

Numerous tunnel machines, including several in Seattle, have successfully excavated ground conditions similar to those anticipated. Over 150 tunnels have been constructed in Seattle since 1890, mostly in glacial soils.

Examples include:

- Sound Transit Beacon Hill:
  - Glacial sand, silt, clay and till up to 160-ft depth.
  - Soils were similar to the hard/dense soils along most of proposed alignment.
- Denny Way CSO:
  - Glacial sand, silt, clay and till up to 160-ft depth.
  - Soils were similar to hard/dense soils along most of proposed alignment.

•While the soils along the waterfront are susceptible to liquefaction in an earthquake, the soils elsewhere in Seattle are fine to dig or bore in.

•The Sound Transit Beacon Hill and Denny Way CSO are good examples of soil conditions and success tunneling elsewhere in Seattle.

## SR 99 Bored Tunnel Cost

**Risk-based estimating nationally recognized as a best practice for mega-projects**

**Cost  
(Millions)**

Construction Estimate (bored tunnel only)	\$944
Construction Management and Administration	\$118
Preliminary and Final Design	\$118
Contingency	\$150
Risk	\$268
Escalation (per Global Insight)	\$166
Right-of-Way Costs	\$149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,913</b>

- Estimates on this slide pertain only to the bored tunnel portion of the project.
- You can see that we have conservatively estimated our risk and contingency, which will help us to prevent cost overruns.

## Successful Delivery of Bored Tunnel Projects

### Examples of Tunnel Excavation in Urban Areas

1. 4th Elbe River, Hamburg: Successfully excavated 1.6 miles at 46.6-ft-diameter.
2. Lefortovo Tunnel, Moscow: Rebuilt Elbe TBM successfully excavated 2 bores each 1.4 miles long at 46.6-ft-diameter. Same machine refurbished for another 2 tunnels in Moscow.
3. Madrid M30 EPB: Successfully excavated 2 bores each 1.3 miles long at 50-ft-diameter by 2 closed-face TBMs built by different manufacturers. M30 diameter was about 10 ft larger than previous TBMs (~50% greater face area).
4. Shanghai Yangtze River Mixshield: Successfully excavated 2 bores each 4.6 miles long at 50.6-ft-diameter. This TBM is the current record holder for diameter. Tunnel completed about a year ahead of original schedule.

### Pending Record Holder

Moscow Road/Rail Tunnel: A 62-ft-diameter Mixshield has been ordered. This diameter is 11-ft larger than Shanghai TBM, the current record holder.

Elbe Tunnel Slurry Machine

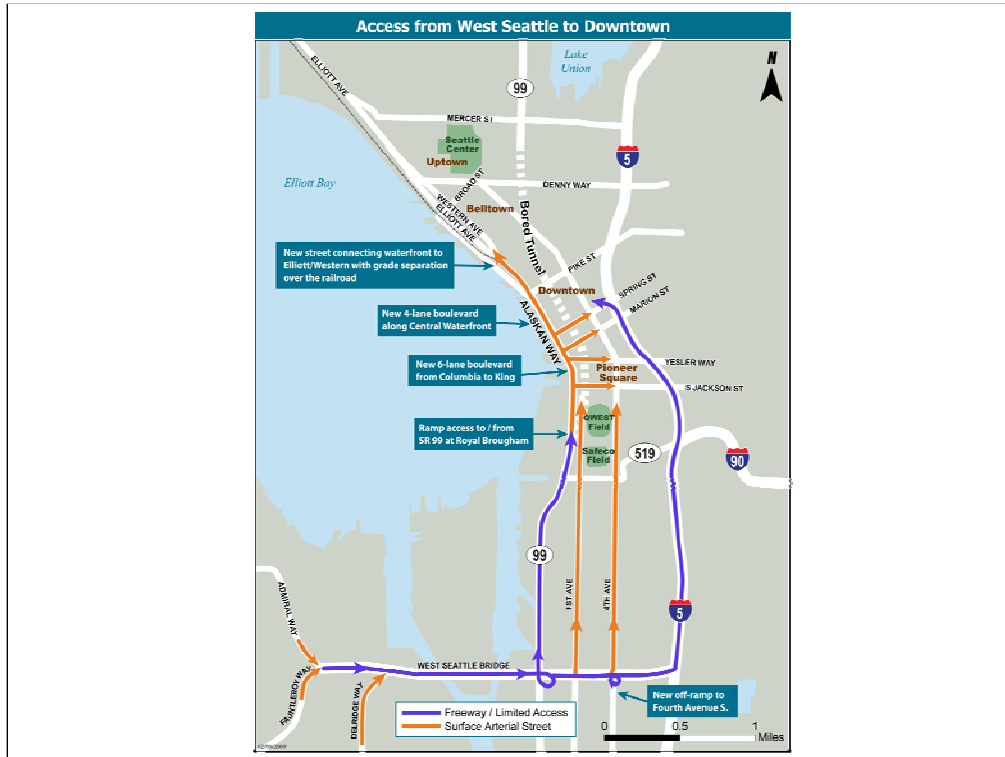


Madrid Calle M30



Seven tunnel boring machines will be used in the Madrid Calle 30 project

•Bored tunnels, while a new technology, have been successfully built throughout the world. This slide provides a few examples of successful projects.



**Eric Tweit**

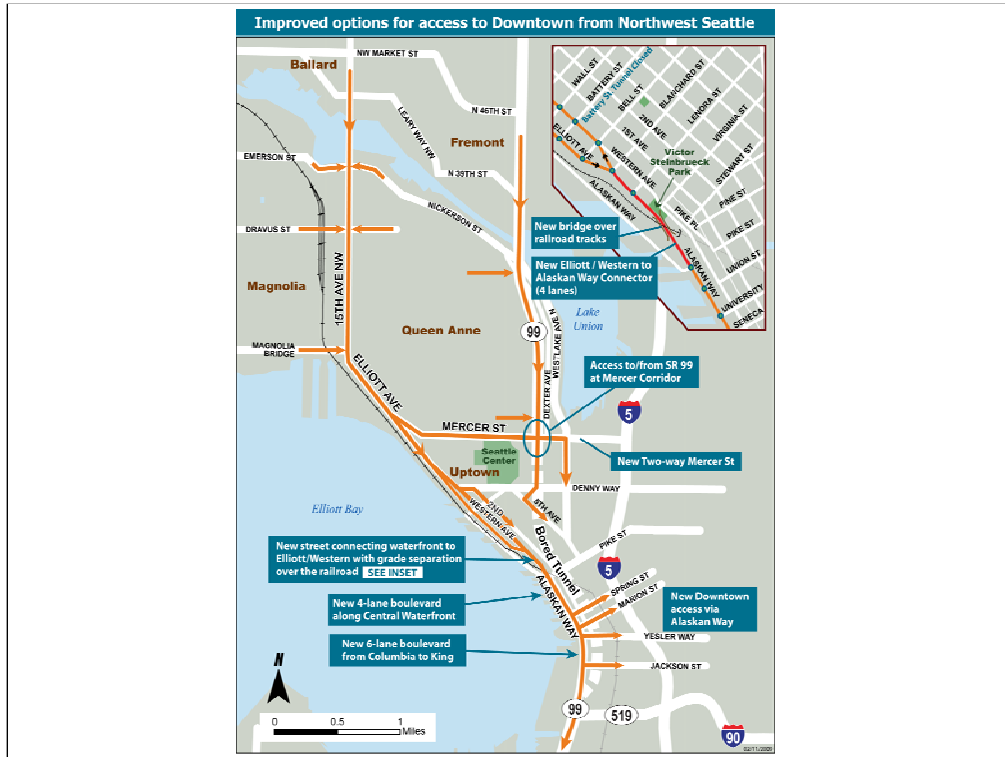
- Access from West Seattle and other areas to the south and west to Downtown will change from today.
- Rather than exiting at Seneca Street in the mid-town area, traffic will exit SR 99 near the stadiums with a direct ramp connection to Alaskan Way. They will then take Alaskan Way north and enter the downtown street grid at a number of locations.
- While this may increase travel times to areas in the north part of downtown, it is overall more efficient than focusing all of the traffic on one off-ramp in the middle of downtown.
- Alaskan Way will be six lanes to Marion Street.





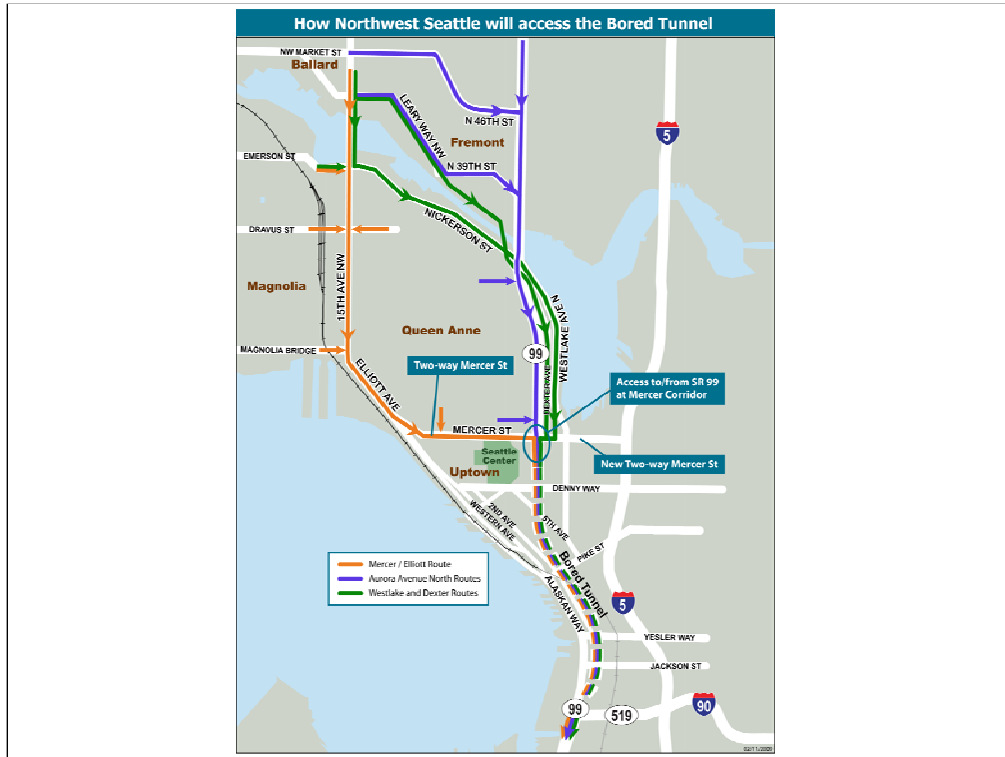
## Eric Tweit

- As part of the bored tunnel program there will be significant improvements to transit serving Northwest Seattle.
- Metro plans to implement Rapidride service serving the Ballard/Uptown corridor and the Aurora Avenue Corridor
- RapidRide is a version of Bus Rapid Transit and features:
  - high frequency throughout the day (6-10 mins peak, 10-12 mins midday),
  - faster service because of transit priority measures such as dedicated transit lanes and signal priority
  - wider stop spacing
  - new low floor buses with quicker loading
- Rapid Ride will use the Third Avenue transit spine in downtown where easy connections can be made to regional LINK light rail and connections south to the Airport.
- Another significant transit improvements is the new Central Streetcar line that will run on First Avenue between the west side of Seattle Center and the King Street Station. Service will run every 6 minutes and will be connected to the planned First Hill Streetcar line funded by Sound Transit Phase 2.



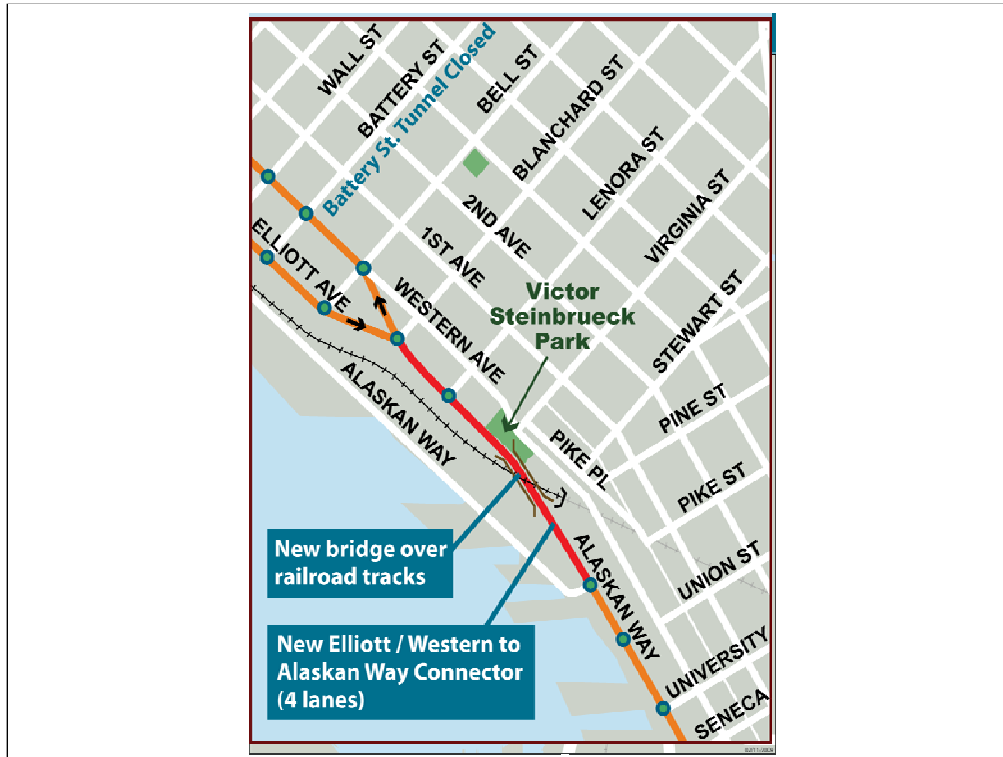
**Eric Tweit**

- The good news here is that all the existing ways of getting to downtown from Northwest Seattle will still be there, along with some new improved options.
- There will be no significant change to access to Downtown from SR99 at Denny Way and from Elliott Avenue into Downtown at various points.
- New access to Downtown will be provided by the new surface Alaskan Way boulevard - drivers will take Elliott to the new connector, then make left turns up into the center of Downtown via Spring and Madison Streets.



## Eric Tweit

- We have a series of maps that will help explain how people from communities in Northwest Seattle and West Seattle will be able to get around. We're going to go through them at a high clip here with you now, but we have copies to hand out and boards of these maps here as well. We'd be happy to answer any questions that you have about them after you've had a chance to look at them more closely.
- Similar to today, resident, employees, truckers and others from Northwest Seattle will have a number of options for traveling to and from the south through downtown Seattle.
- Which route they take may depend on their specific origin and destination, as well as the time of day.
- This map shows how this area will access the bored tunnel. The three general access routes:
  - North of the Ship Canal, (same as today)
  - via 15th and Elliott to Mercer, and
  - using Dexter or Westlake from either the Fremont Bridge or Nickerson.
- What's different?
- Two-way Mercer makes it possible to cross Aurora from east to west, so you can exit the bored tunnel and head west on Mercer; or cross Aurora from Dexter or Westlake and head south into the tunnel.
- The bored tunnel will take 1 to 2 minutes off of a trip that is now made using Aurora and the viaduct to get through downtown during peak periods.



#### Eric Tweit

- On this slide you can see a detailed view of the Elliott/Western connection.
- A reliable and direct route through Downtown will continue to be 15th Avenue to Elliott and then using the new surface Alaskan Way boulevard through downtown.
- The traffic model predicts that a majority of trips that use SR99 today will continue to use this route.
- The route will be improved greatly over today.
- First the back-ups that currently plague Elliott Avenue to the Viaduct southbound on ramp during peak periods will disappear. A new four lane connector between Elliott and Western to Alaskan Way will move traffic efficiently through this area.
- Second – the street will cross the BNSF railroad tracks on a new bridge adjacent to the Pike Place Market, so there will be no delays due to trains that currently plague use of the Alaskan Way surface route.
- Third, the new Alaskan Way Boulevard will be a much more efficient street than the current Alaskan Way. There will be four lanes (2 lanes each way) plus turn lanes between Pike and Columbia. South of Columbia the street expands to six lanes. All intersections will be signalized and signals will be timed to move traffic efficiently. Pedestrian crossing at signals will ensure safe pedestrian crossings and more predictability for vehicles, particularly trucks.
- When drivers get to the stadium area they will be able to access SR99 southbound at new ramps that allow access on and off SR99 at approximately Royal Brougham.
- Travel times are predicted to be similar to today - approximately 2 to 3 minutes longer than the current trip on the Viaduct.

## South end design features



- Side-by-side roadways
- Three lanes in each direction
- Both surface and elevated sections
- Relocated tail track
- New undercrossing at Atlantic
- New on- and off-ramps near stadiums
- Realigned Alaskan Way
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Surface street improvements

### Ron Paananen

Here are the main design features of the south end replacement:

- The roadways will be side-by-side, rather than a double-deck structure.
- There will be three lanes in each direction.
- Portions of the new structure will be elevated above the railroad tracks.
- We will relocate the tail track that the railroads use to build their trains.
- We will build a new undercrossing at S. Atlantic street, so that traffic can bypass the tail track when it's occupied by trains.
- We will build new ramps near the stadiums.
- Alaskan Way will be realigned as part of this project.
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be upgraded.
- There will be surface improvements to several streets in the project area.