

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: Van Ness, Kristy (Consultant)
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 4:16 PM
To: Grotefendt, Amy (Consultant); Paananen, Ron; White, John; Greco, Theresa; Preedy, Matt; Carpine-Cazzanti, Joy; Tobin, Victoria
Cc: Lenz, KaDeena (Consultant)
Subject: Seattle Times - House

April 9, 2009 3:55 PM

House Speaker says he'll allow vote on viaduct tunnel bill

Posted by [Andrew Garber](#)

More on this later, but House Speaker Frank Chopp this afternoon said he'll allow a floor vote on a bill that calls for the Alaskan Way Viaduct to be replaced with a deep bore tunnel.

This is the first time he's said publicly that he'd allow a vote.

Chopp has been widely viewed as the biggest political obstacle to the \$4.3 billion project, which includes \$3.1 billion for a four-lane, deep-bore tunnel under First Avenue and an elevated segment through Sodo.

The speaker had pushed his own plan for the viaduct replacement: an elevated freeway along the waterfront with retail, office and living space below it.

Chopp said he still thinks a tunnel is a bad idea, but he'll allow the House to take a vote, possibly by Monday. He said there will be amendments to reinforce that the state will only pay \$2.4 billion for the project.

The state Senate passed a similar bill in March.

Eric Balliet

Communications and Public Involvement
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program
(206) 267-6017
BallieE@wsdot.wa.gov