



Monthly Internal Newsletter

Welcome to the internal newsletter for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program.

This is a general message to the team members at the program office, so please designate a person to share this newsletter with any off-site team members who may not be included in this distribution list.

Program update

- The Engineering Team has the following updates:
 - The S. Holgate Street to S. King Street project team has received approval to move forward with a Stage 2 design that is compatible with the bored tunnel concept. They continue to work toward delivery of the 90% PS&E milestone.
 - The North and South SR 99 ITS projects are in the process of completing 60 percent PS&E packages and are scheduled to deliver them in late April.
 - The Central Waterfront team now has an end-to-end concept developed for use by the Environmental team in the EIS. Work has begun to turn the concept into a snapshot plan set to be delivered in June. Conceptual design of the north and south portal configurations and tunnel cross-section is continuing. A contract packaging workshop was completed in early March, with results to be released in early April.
- The Environmental Team has the following updates:
 - The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Holgate to King Street Viaduct Replacement Project is complete. It was officially published on Feb. 25!
 - Permits for the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street project are mostly in hand and continue on schedule.
 - Permits for the SR 99 ITS improvements are progressing well and on track.
 - The bored tunnel methodology reports are being prepared. The reports will describe how we will evaluate potential impacts.
- The Utilities Team has the following updates:
 - For the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Stage 1 project, the final PS&E ad-ready copy was submitted on Feb. 24. One addendum is anticipated to be prepared to address outstanding issues that could not be included in the ad-ready set.
 - The S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Stage 2 team completed the 90% design on March 13.
 - Design issues have been addressed such that construction agreements with the private communications utilities were completed in time for the March 9 ad date for the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Stage 1 project.
- The Program Management team has the following updates:
 - The Business Group has prepared and submitted to WSDOT management for approval a revised program budget based on the bored tunnel alternative.
 - Project Controls is working to validate the data in the PRISM cost system and is also preparing a Master Program Schedule based on the bored tunnel alternative.
 - Document Management continues to implement Livelink for the remaining business units and is also preparing to use that system to hold a program master action item list.
 - Local Agreements continues to work with SDOT, SPU, and SCL to execute agreements for the first contract on the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street project.

- The Right-of-Way Group is conducting studies to identify parcels needed to support a bored tunnel along its likely alignment.

Note from Deputy Program Director Matt Preedy

These past several months have been an exciting ride for all agencies associated with the AWV program. We have seen unprecedented tri-agency cooperation that has led to the bored tunnel recommendation. Without that cooperation, the public and political support for our program would rapidly dissolve, and we would most likely end up in a climate similar to the one that led to the famous 2007 “no-no” vote. In order for this program to be successful, it is vital that we maintain this spirit of working together at every level of the organization.

During the next few weeks a lot will be happening within the program. We have already seen the bored tunnel recommendation pass through the Senate with an overwhelming majority, and we are very optimistic that it will soon pass through the House of Representatives. Once we have the environmental strategy and the evaluation results from the bored tunnel workshop panel, we will be able to start working in a focused manner on the many necessary tasks to deliver the total program. Thank you for your patience during the past few weeks while we planned the work flow necessary to deliver on the 2015 corridor opening date commitment.

Recognition should also be given to the staff currently working on the Moving Forward project elements, since those pieces will set the tone for proving our ability to deliver on our promises. We have successfully advertised the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Stage 1 project, and are working rapidly to deliver the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Stage 2 project on time. It is critical that we maintain these successful efforts to gain public confidence.

Within another few weeks, all of the planning, strategy, and funding pieces should fall into place at about the same time. This is an extraordinary program with very challenging delivery commitments, so thank you in advance for your upcoming hard work.

Small amount of settlement found on the viaduct

No structural damage or new cracks were found during the March 21-22 inspection closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, but WSDOT bridge inspection crews reported a small amount of settlement of the viaduct near Seneca Street. New settlement in this area was approximately ¼ of an inch, bringing total settlement near Seneca Street to 1-5/8 inches since the Nisqually earthquake in 2001. Tests of the fire detection and suppression systems in the Battery Street Tunnel during the closure were successful. All sprinklers in the tunnel are functioning properly, and only a few of the heat detection devices need repairs.

In April 2008, four column foundations between Columbia Street and Yesler Way were strengthened after the columns had settled approximately 5-1/2 inches since the 2001 Nisqually earthquake. One year later, the columns are more stable, and no new settlement was detected in this area.



While crews were inspecting the viaduct, more than 110 members of the public took short walking tours of the viaduct and learned more about the program. Pictures of the tours can be found [online](#).

Environmental team celebrates Finding of No Significant Impact

At a recognition ceremony on March 6, Deputy Urban Corridors Administrator Ron Paananen awarded Sasha Visconty, Angela Freudenstein and Allison Hanson certificates recognizing their excellence in

creating and publishing the Finding of No Significant Impact for the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street project.

David Mattern, Kathy Rossi, Lorena Dinger, Jill Czarnecki, Jean Schwinberg, Heather Page, Gwen McCullough, Sasha Visconty, Ann Costanza, Margaret Kucharski, Ken Juell and Connie Gray all received "Pats on the Back" awards for their valuable contributions to the project.

Electrical Line Relocation project making progress

Crews are currently relocating high voltage electrical lines attached to the viaduct to an underground location just east of the structure. This project helps us prepare for S. Holgate Street to S. King Street project construction. It will also protect downtown's power supply in the event of an earthquake. Construction on this project is expected to be complete in winter 2009.

This month crews are installing transmission and distribution duct banks and utility vaults between S Royal Brougham Way and Railroad Way S.

You can see pictures of the construction work [online](#).

February open houses held in West Seattle and Ballard

Approximately 220 members of the public attended the Feb. 23 and 24 public scoping open houses in Ballard and West Seattle. These meetings were the first opportunities for members of the public to view information about the bored tunnel hybrid and make comments on it.

We presented information about all aspects of the hybrid recommendation, including funding sources, design, transit improvements, and driving connections.

Attendees were encouraged to comment on written comment forms or verbally to a court reporter. More than 40 written comments and 17 verbal comments were received. The comments were about a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from concerns about accessing the bored tunnel from the northwest to congratulating the agencies on the recommendation.



Members of the public review information about the bored tunnel recommendation during the West Seattle open house at Madison Middle School.



Program Director John White speaks with members of the public at the West Seattle open house.

Geotechnical drilling begins for bored tunnel



In March crews began geotechnical drilling along the proposed alignment for the bored tunnel. The pictures above are from the first drilling location at Second Avenue and Lenora Street. Crews are also drilling holes along First Avenue between Virginia Street and S. King Street. This work will help engineers gather subsurface information that will better prepare us for construction of the bored tunnel.

Happy Birthday, Viaduct!

Saturday, April 4 marks the 56th anniversary of the opening of Alaskan Way Viaduct. A lot was going on in 1953. To give you an idea:

- Dwight Eisenhower had just succeeded Harry Truman as President of the United States.
- A nuclear test was conducted in Nevada.

- The Academy Awards were broadcast on television for the first time.
- Ian Fleming published his first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale."
- Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people to successfully summit Mount Everest.
- The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey.
- The FCC approved color television.



Cutting the ribbon to open the Alaskan Way Viaduct on April 4, 1953, are, from left, Iris Adams, Mayor Allan Pomeroy and D.K. MacDonald, president of the Automobile Club of Washington. (Seattle P-I photo)



Three lanes of northbound traffic jam up at the north end of the Alaskan Way Viaduct on April 5, 1953. (Seattle P-I photo by Ed Watton)

AWV team volunteers for Habitat for Humanity

On Jan. 31, a sunny winter Saturday, a group of team members volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity site in Everett.

The site in Everett contains four future home sites. The volunteer crew helped with site grading and framing. The grading was done the old-fashioned way – with shovels – because Habitat for Humanity prefers to save their donations for materials instead of equipment rental.

The volunteer crew worked alongside one of the future homeowners, since Habitat for Humanity requires future homeowners to put in more than 200 hours of “sweat equity.” The homeowner said that the viaduct program crew was one of the hardest working groups she had seen.

Another volunteer opportunity is scheduled for Saturday, April 25. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Monique Nykamp at nykampm@wsdot.wa.gov.



The viaduct crew takes a break to pose with some of the Habitat for Humanity's future homeowners.

Team member spotlight: Mike Colyn



Name: Mike Colyn

Job Titles: Package Manager for the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Viaduct Replacement Project - Stage 2 and Civil Lead - S. Holgate Street to S. King Street Viaduct Replacement Project - Stage 1

Favorite thing about working on program: The people I work with and interact with. The design team members are fantastic and I really enjoy interacting with so many different people from the various stakeholders: BNSF, Coast Guard, Port, City, County, and various property owners and tenants. Of course, working on a project that is so complex and challenging is also fun.

Most interesting thing I did at work this week: The last couple weeks we've been working on modifying the scope and maintenance of traffic strategy for the S. Holgate Street to S. King Street - Stage 2 to accommodate the bored tunnel alternative.

Hobbies: I love running and participating in relays, marathons, and half-marathons.

TV Show: It's a toss up - I love "The Office," and right now my wife and I are watching "Lost" on DVD.

Favorite book: I like just about everything I've read by John Irving - maybe the favorite being "Prayer for Owen Meany"

AWV team member passes CDFA certification exam

Congratulations to Lois Diemert (Jacobs) on passing the Certified Design Firm Administrator (CDFA) exam! The Society for Design Administration (SDA, www.sdadmin.org) offers CDFA certification to administrative staff working in the architecture, engineering and construction industry. Lois has worked in the engineering field for more than 20 years and became a member of SDA last year.

AWV around town



(From left to right) Rick Conte, Mike Rigsby and Ralph Petereit at the High Hut near Mount Rainier on Feb. 21. Contact Mike or Rick to sign up for the next adventure



Jay Mezher, Eric Peiffer, Gordon Clark, David Mattern, Ralph Graves, Mike Rigsby, Rick Conte, Ralph Petereit, and Steve Gleaton's dog, Mars, visit Nordic Pass on Mar. 28.

Safety: Earthquakes

Earthquakes are always a risk living in western Washington. Many go without notice to the general public, but preparedness in the event a large earthquake occurs could make a huge difference in how you make it through.

- Establish an "out-of-area" contact and keep the phone numbers handy. This is the person family members will call if you are separated.
- Prepare an emergency kit for yourself that includes sturdy shoes, a battery powered radio, food and water for three days, and some basic first-aid supplies. Try to keep one kit at work, home and in your car.
- When you feel an earthquake, DROP and COVER under a desk or sturdy table. Stay away from windows and objects like bookcases that could fall. HOLD on to the desk or table. If it moves, move with it. Do not run - stay where you are. "Drop, Cover and Hold."
- Immediately after the earthquake, use the phone ONLY to report a life threatening emergency.
- After the earthquake, listen to a radio to find out if there are evacuation advisories or other steps you should take to ensure your safety.

For more information about earthquake preparedness, visit:

www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz_earthquakes.shtml.

Volunteer this Earth Day

Since 1970, people across the world have been celebrating Earth Day by planting trees, cleaning up parks and restoring local habitats. This year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, but many groups organize activities on the weekends before and after that day. There are many different ways for you to get involved in and around Seattle. For more information on activities near you, visit www.earthday.net/search/node.

If gardening or the outdoors aren't your specialty, National Volunteer Week is April 19-25. Monique Nycamp has a great opportunity to volunteer on April 25; e-mail her at nykampm@wsdot.wa.gov for more information. There are also lots of opportunities for you to get involved with nonprofit organizations near the office. Seattle's Union Gospel Mission and the Bread of Life Mission are both homeless shelters in Pioneer Square.

Newsletter survey

Thank you to everyone who replied to the newsletter survey with their comments and suggestions. The communications team reviewed the responses, and you should start to see some minor additions in the coming months. Your input is important to us, so if you didn't fill out a survey but would like to make a suggestion, please e-mail Alissa VandenBerghe at vandena@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov.

Thanks again!

New staff merging

Welcome to the newest additions to our team!

Pete Bassford, HMM, Project Controls
Dana Bellows, Jacobs, Structural
Bill Conner, PB, Structural
Jeff Donahue, WSDOT, Civil
Randy Everett, FHWA
Chris Hawkins, PB, Tunnel Design
John Leibe, Hill International, Program Management
Lee MacClellan, WSDOT, Design
Casey Nelson, Jacobs, MOT

Don Phelps, HMM, Design
Matt Ringstad, Jacobs, Civil
Amy Turner, EnviroIssues, Communications
Tom Woodworth, Hill International, Program Management
Steve Wu, WSDOT, Design

Upcoming Events

April 4: 5th Annual Gathering of Neighbors
April 15: Parkshore Retirement Home
April 15: Morgan Community Association
April 30: Pike Place Market PDA
April 30: The Blue Book GC

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program Web site

www.alaskanwayviaduct.org