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**From:** Tayloe Washburn [chamber@seattlechamber.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2009 11:46 AM  
**To:** Paananen, Ron  
**Subject:** Message from the Seattle Chamber Chair

## GREATER **Seattle** CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Chamber Members:

The Chamber has played a central role in advancing regional mobility, and over the last five years we have helped **secure \$27 billion** in critical transportation investments that are infusing money and jobs into the economy right now, when we need it most.

As part of this initiative, the Chamber has been a staunch advocate for financing and expediting the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, and we've worked tirelessly to help lead this project towards resolution.

As many of you know, a decision to move forward with the **Bored Tunnel Hybrid solution** in January was reached through a grass roots compromise. The Chamber played a lead role in helping stakeholders find this broad-based consensus about a positive path forward—something that hadn't been achieved during the eight years since the Viaduct was shaken by the Nisqually quake.

### **We need your help now**

**Your voice is needed to secure funding for the Bored Tunnel and to make this project a reality**

Thanks to the support of a [broad coalition](#) of statewide and regional business, labor, environmental and neighborhood leaders, the Bored Tunnel sailed through the State Senate and recently received the approval of a key committee in the State House. Please [contact your representatives](#) today and tell them that you support the Bored Tunnel Hybrid solution to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

Tell them, **this solution will serve everyone in Washington state**. The Alaskan Way Viaduct corridor is a vital transportation and economic link to communities south, north and east of Seattle, to workers and companies of all sizes including Boeing and Microsoft and their suppliers, and to towns and cities north and south of Seattle and across the state who depend on the Port of Seattle to get their goods to and from market.



Tell them the four lanes of the Bored Tunnel, along with the new waterfront boulevard, **preserves regional capacity** by accommodating as many vehicles as the Viaduct accommodates today, and by allowing for future growth. The Bored Tunnel also avoids the enormous potential negative impact of viaduct-related construction activity on the regional economy. This disruption issue is the key difference between the deep bore option and an earlier proposal for a cut-and-cover tunnel.

Tell them that the tunnel's financing plan is consistent with the direction established by the legislature in previous sessions and the state's contribution is capped—which means it **won't siphon funding away from other critical projects around the state**. The project also has a number of accountability and oversight measures and legislative mandates that will contain costs and keep the project on schedule.

Challenges remain, but the Bored Tunnel Hybrid is a **viable, achievable project** that in the long run offers by far **the greatest value** of any other viaduct replacement option, and **helps keep the regional economy moving** on one of the state's most important transportation arteries.

## **We are at a critical milestone**

It is time for us all to advance this consensus decision forward and leave the chance and risk for further delay and political deadlock behind. **Please contact your representatives and urge them to vote 'Yes' on the Bored Tunnel Hybrid solution.**

Sincerely,  
 Tayloe Washburn  
 Chair, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

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