

PEOPLE'S WATERFRONT COALITION

THE CITIZEN'S VISION FOR A HIGHWAY-FREE SHORE

The No-Highway Solution: simple. smart. seattle.

Seattle is deciding the future of its waterfront for generations to come. Replacing the Viaduct with a new highway will cost billions, take a decade to complete, and do little to improve regional mobility. Instead, the People's Waterfront Coalition proposes investing in fixes to the larger road network to move Viaduct traffic off the downtown shore. Why? We envision a dynamic water's edge, with parks, beaches, recreation paths, event spaces, and an urban street integrated into a functional shore ecology. We believe taking full advantage of our most precious public property is a better legacy to leave future Seattle than a new highway we may not need. Other cities have made this choice, and were rewarded with lasting benefits to their economies and communities.

The megaproject is unaffordable, and unneeded

At \$4.5 billion or more, WS-DOT's tunnel* megaproject breaks the bank for a single corridor at a time when we can't even afford to maintain the roads we already have. Other highway projects, transit, and upkeep compete for limited public dollars -- we can't afford it all. The Feds aren't funding megaprojects these days; voters consistently oppose new taxes required for such projects; officials don't know where the money will come from. Fiscal responsibility should guide the search for an affordable, rational solution. Working creatively to better use existing resources is not only more cost-effective, it's more effective.

There is a better transportation solution

The "No Highway Solution" improves existing arterials, untangles I-5, and better integrates our two new transit systems. This set of smaller projects rebalances traffic and makes available latent capacity already in the system. Our plan adapts strategies used by San Francisco, Portland, and Vancouver, and is based on decades of solid research -- and repeated real-world evidence of success. A recent study of road removals in other cities shows not one experienced long-term gridlock or traffic chaos, despite dire warnings from highway planners. When offered usable alternatives, people adjust.

- **Link up arterial streets** like Airport Way, 6th Ave, and Dexter Ave to distribute trips away from SR-99 north and south of downtown.
- **Improve flow on I-5** by reducing downtown ramps and reconfiguring express lanes.
- **Create freight-priority routes** on linked arterial streets and I-5.
- **Increase traffic flow downtown** by timing traffic signals, fixing bottlenecks.
- **Coordinate transit systems** (monorail, light rail, commuter rail, ferry, bus) to maximize trips on transit instead of in cars.
- **Make denser, more walkable neighborhoods** through public investment; eliminating car trips is the simplest way to improve mobility.

Is a new shore highway the legacy you want to leave?

With the Viaduct gone, the downtown shore will be Seattle's ecological, economic, and civic jewel. When other uses for this space are imagined, and the bounty of benefits tallied, it is clear that this is the most insane location for a new highway. By moving through-traffic off the shore, we can launch a new landscape on the water's edge that allows the mixing of urban and natural so central to our city's identity. Compared to a 13-block tunnel lid flanked by roaring surface traffic and an aerial spur, reclaiming the full length of the newly freed shore offers superior returns.

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Reclaim your waterfront: Tree-lined sidewalks; a walk at water level; maritime industry; park space, bike path and infill buildings; and restored near-shore habitat

Officials plan to reroute Viaduct traffic during tunnel construction...

if we can live without that highway for 7 years, doesn't that mean we can live without it?



You can help

PWC continues the grassroots tradition that saved Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square and stopped the RH Thomson Expressway.

We need YOU to make this happen: Tell elected officials at City, State, and Federal levels that you want to take Seattle's shore back. Tell your friends. And donate so we can educate the public and build support among decision-makers.

The People's Waterfront Coalition is made up of concerned groups and individuals united to take Seattle's waterfront back from the highway, on behalf of the people of Seattle and the health of Elliott Bay.

If you would like more information or to get involved with PWC as a volunteer or patron, please call 206.624.1061, email heyyou@peopleswaterfront.org, or visit www.peopleswaterfront.org