



Our Mission
To champion a healthy, vibrant urban core

Downtown Seattle Association

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January 26, 2009

Hon. Christine Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Hon. Ron Sims
Executive, King County
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Hon. Greg Nickels
Mayor, City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue, Seventh Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Governor Gregoire, Executive Sims and Mayor Nickels:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Alaskan Way Viaduct Stakeholder Advisory Committee. After more than a year of work alongside labor, environmental, business and neighborhood partners, we write to commend you for your leadership in establishing this citizens committee; for considering and incorporating many of its recommendations; and to formally and enthusiastically endorse your recommendation of a bored tunnel for the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

On January 22, 2009, the DSA Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support your recommendation for the bored tunnel and associated surface and transit improvements, and committed to working with you and our community partners in support of its implementation.

Over one year ago you challenged stakeholders to take a fresh look at this project, consider a broad range of principles and provide critical feedback to the project team on various replacement options. We began the process believing that gathering divergent viewpoints within the same room to review and consider data on replacement options was a prudent approach that could lead to broad support for a viable replacement project.



Since December 2007, we have invested hundreds of hours over the course of dozens of meetings to bring our perspective and critical thinking to this project on behalf of the Downtown community.

Your selection of the bored tunnel alternative is a compromise that takes into account various viewpoints and interests and reflects significant feedback from citizens, business, labor, environmental and neighborhood leaders. In supporting this project, each of us had to give a little, but we all stand to gain significant benefits from the bored tunnel alternative.

The bored tunnel alternative will reconnect Downtown to the waterfront, maintain mobility for people and goods, result in a significant increase in transit service, protect the viability of Interstate 5, maintain regional commerce, and minimize construction impacts to waterfront businesses.

The proposed funding plan recognizes that the financing of the project, including new transit service, replacement of the seawall and improvements to surface streets, is a shared responsibility among the state, city, port, county and private sector. No one entity should or could shoulder this challenge alone.

We would be remiss to not compliment and thank the project team representing the three transportation agencies. The team has brought immeasurable professionalism, dedication and expertise to this project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important process. The DSA is committed to continuing to work with all parties to ensure this project is successful for Downtown Seattle, the region and the state.

Sincerely,



Patrick Gordon
Chair, Board of Trustees
Downtown Seattle Association



Rob Sexton
Chair, Transportation Committee
Downtown Seattle Association



Kate Joncas
President
Downtown Seattle Association

cc: Senate Majority Leader, Lisa Brown
Speaker of the House, Frank Chopp
Senate Transportation Committee Chair, Mary Margaret Haugen
House Transportation Committee Chair, Judy Clibborn