

I-004-001

Comment – 5/27/04

I just read an article in the Seattle Times, it is the Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> issue about a no-highway waterfront and I think that is a great idea. I didn't see it in the EIS as an option and I wonder why not. It is beginning to be pretty obvious that we can't afford to rebuild or even replace the viaduct, so why not just take it down and build a nice waterfront. Cars have to go away we just can't keep driving our cars all the time. Completely ridiculous, the world is running out of oil and it not a viable option to replace it or even rebuild it. I'd like to see this as an option, thank you.

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Many people asked the lead agencies to consider an alternative that would remove the viaduct and replace it with a four-lane surface roadway along Alaskan Way and include transit improvements. Without a host of improvements and modifications, a four-lane Alaskan Way would create even more congestion on I-5 and downtown streets than the alternatives evaluated in the 2004 Draft and 2006 and 2010 Supplemental Draft EISs. Transportation studies performed for this project indicate that replacing the viaduct with a four-lane surface street would substantially increase congestion for most of the day and part of the evening on I-5 through downtown Seattle, downtown streets, and Alaskan Way. On downtown streets, traffic would increase by 30 percent, though traffic increases to specific areas like Pioneer Square and the waterfront could exceed 30 percent. With a four-lane roadway, traffic on Alaskan Way would quadruple to 35,000 to 56,000 vehicles per day compared to about 10,000 vehicles today. This traffic increase would make Alaskan Way the busiest street downtown, carrying more traffic than Mercer Street does today. The increased traffic congestion would also make travel times worse for buses, making transit improvements along these streets largely ineffective. Finally, neighborhoods west of I-5 (Ballard, Queen Anne, Magnolia, and West Seattle) would be less accessible and would face longer commute times.