

AWV Draft EIS Comment Form Results:

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Would like to be added to the project mailing list?

Yes

Project Comments:

I-116-001 I would like you to take very seriously the issue of view accessibility. Over the last 20 years, we have seen so many tall buildings built all along the western edge of downtown. A person used to be able to see glorious views of the sound and the Olympics from almost anywhere downtown during the course of their business day. Now, you rarely catch a glimpse through the crack between two tall buildings. And on the waterfront, so many more tall buildings have been built that views are getting harder and harder to find. So we are coming to a point where only the people wealthy enough to get up high above the heads of the others have the benefit of being reminded on a daily basis what a glorious place we live in. The viaduct is the last place where the common person can feel the glory of this beautiful spot on the earth. Driving along the viaduct is a two minute meditation in beauty and the changing landscape of mountain, cloud and sky. I'm not saying that I'm not keeping my eye on the road, but we all enjoy crossing the I-90 bridge and seeing the spectacular view of Mt. Rainier when it's out, and the view from the viaduct beats that hands down. If we put the viaduct underground, then there goes the last unobstructed view of the sound that the less than wealthy get. I, personally, hate the idea of being in an underground tunnel. Particularly if there were a traffic jam as there is almost daily on that stretch of road. But I can also see the benefit of having the viaduct gone and a wide open expanse of park and people space along the waterfront. But that's not what is going to happen, is it? What will happen if the viaduct is put underground is that all that space will be sold to wealthy people who will put up tall buildings and those of us not wealthy enough to be invited up there, will never see our beautiful sound and mountains from downtown again. Except for the rare crack between their monoliths. If you do decided to put a tunnel in, I must say I will fight to keep developers off that space. The people of Seattle have a right to enjoy this beautiful view. Don't sell our heritage. Seattle belongs to all of us.

I-116-002

Comments apply to:

Overall Project

I-116-001

The views of Elliott Bay, Puget Sound, and the Olympic Mountains are prized by many. Views are currently enjoyed by motorists and passengers traveling on the upper deck of the existing viaduct. However, the views for motorists and pedestrians using downtown streets in the vicinity of the waterfront are interrupted by the existing viaduct structure. This structure is considered by some to be a substantial visual intrusion as well as a source of noise and shadow for the Pioneer Square Historic District and the Central Waterfront. Impacts to views are discussed in the Final EIS and considered in detail in Appendix D, Visual Quality Discipline Report.

I-116-002

The lead agencies have identified the Bored Tunnel Alternative as the preferred alternative due to its ability to best meet the project's identified purposes and needs and the support it has received from diverse interests. The Final EIS and Appendix E contain visual simulations, and effects on visual quality are discussed in the Final EIS as well. There is insufficient space for additional large high-rise buildings to be developed in the right-of-way on the east side of Alaskan Way.