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From: Michael Newton [mailto:newton@heavybit.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2004 10:17 AM

To: viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

Subject: Let's NOT have a highway along Seattle's waterfront.

**I-380-001**

Everyone knows the viaduct is ugly and devalues Seattle's greatest natural asset - the waterfront.

Urban planners around the world praise Vancouver and Portland, and scoff at Seattle. We are going to need a little bit of vision to make Seattle the world-class city it deserves to be.

These people have the right idea: <http://www.peopleswaterfront.org>

M.

### **I-380-001**

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 Draft and 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.