**From:** Karen Lang
**To:** AWV SDEIS Comments;
**CC:**
**Subject:** Alaska Way Viaduct Project
**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2006 12:27:32 PM
**Attachments:**

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Dear Sirs,

I-608-001 I have, with keen interest, been closely watching the debate over what to do with the viaduct. As a new resident of Seattle, I have lived here for just 5 years, originating from London, I am appalled at the traffic conditions and overall state of the downtown roads. I thought London was bad, and indeed it is, but Seattle is much smaller.

Seattle is, in my opinion, beginning to look a little shabby. On top of this, we have a structure that is, for all intents and purposes, becoming more unsafe and congested, as time passes. This of course is the viaduct, plus it is ugly and an eye sore.

Admittedly I do not commute using Alaska Way and I am sure that more traffic congestion is the last thing that most Seattle residents want. However, as has been seen in the past with other proposed transportation projects, the Seattle residents, can at times, be a little short sighted and closed minded. The monorail project is a good example.

A cut and cover new Alaskan Way is the way to go. Oh my goodness, what an instant uplift on the aesthetics of the city whilst providing more traffic lanes and safety in the event of an earthquake. Our waterfront pales in comparison to other US cities waterfront areas. We need to invest $$$ on the waterfront and by ridding ourselves of that concrete monstrosity is a step in the right direction.

I have been witness to and subject to the traffic delays of a cut and cover tunnel whilst living in my home area. There is an old English town, Wanstead London E11, that was "in the way" of the new A406 extension from West London to East London. The proposal was to extend the road to ease congestion, but it went straight through this old English village, complete with couple of hundred year old Oak tree that had stood the test of time.

**I-608-001**

FHWA, WSDOT, and the City of Seattle appreciate receiving your comments on the 2006 Cut-and-Cover Tunnel Alternative. The alignment for the Cut-and-Cover Tunnel Alternative has been refined in the Final EIS. 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. Because the project has evolved since comments were submitted in 2006, please refer to the Final EIS for current information.

I-608-001 It is astounding what modern architecture, structural and civil design engineers can achieve. You would never know that tunnel is there, they even saved the Oak tree. Wanstead looks exactly like it used to, if not better, because the traffic that is heading to Central London no longer cuts straight through this residential village in the suburbs of London.

Seattle residents need to actually see this kind of enhancement for their own eyes to fully appreciate what you are proposing with the cut and cover option. Perhaps you could present a slide show of what was done in Wanstead to ease their minds. For once, I believe that common sense, safety and aesthetics should prevail. If you have the budget and the dollars for the cut and cover, go for it, please, please please.

The cut and cover tunnel will provide leisure areas as well as retail, it will open up the views our wonderful city and potentially be the start of a re-vamping of our waterfront.

I totally support the cut and cover option. I wish I could do more to show the residents of Seattle that it is the way to go. A little disruption in the short time for much longer term gain.

Yours faithfully,

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