
From: brent white [brent_white@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2010 7:53 AM
To: AWW SDEIS Comments
Subject: Comments on Hwy 99 SDEIS

I-153-001

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hwy 99 SDEIS.

As a bus rider, I remain disappointed that the least transit-friendly option has been chosen for replacement of the viaduct, when transit has replaced personal vehicle trips as the preferred form of entrance and egress in downtown Seattle.

I am also disappointed that alternative tunnel routes were not studied, especially in light of the higher freight traffic to and from Interbay, vs. Aurora Ave N.

Moreover, looking to the near future when politicians realize that they've built a tunnel for the wrong mode of transportation, I hope that WSDOT can do further study on the feasibility of converting the tunnel to being a second transit tunnel, or a pathway to get high-speed commuter and/or freight rail under downtown.

On the freight piece, I'd like WSDOT to take a realistic look at how freight using the shorter new Alaskan Way, and the use of tolls, will affect traffic patterns and how much traffic the tunnel is expected to carry if the money isn't wasted trying to force freight to cut over to the north portal. Plus, how much of that tunnel traffic is simply competing with the future possible North Link extensions? (This may affect the routing of North Link.)

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment. I hope conversion of the tunnel to a more-preferred mode is shown to be feasible and more useful for relieving traffic on freight routes and for general use.

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The focus of the project is replacement of a highway facility. Transit development plans such as Sound Transit 2 did not identify use of the project tunnel for future services. However, the project would include elements that support public transit. These elements include transit speed and reliability improvements that would be available during and after project construction. In the south area, there would be a bus-only lane in the northbound SR 99 off-ramp. In the north area bus-only lanes would be provided on Aurora Avenue that will support transit operations in the South Lake Union area.