

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No. 7b

Date of Meeting May 10, 2011

DATE: May 4, 2011

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Mike Merritt, Local Government Relations

SUBJECT: Washington State Department of Transportation update on Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program

BRIEFING OUTLINE:

Representatives of WSDOT will brief the commission on progress of the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement projects that are of particular interest to the Port of Seattle, its business tenants and stakeholders.

In January, WSDOT signed a contract with Seattle Tunnel Partners to design and build the SR 99 bored tunnel. The contractor team proposes to open the tunnel to traffic by late 2015, a full year soon than anticipated.

The first part of the Viaduct was demolished on February 18, the northbound ramp to SR 99 from First Avenue S. This was a critical step in constructing a detour route to carry traffic as crews demolish the southern end of the Viaduct starting in 2012.

A major element of the program is coordination with the Port, City, King County and other agencies to keep freight and people moving during the demolition and construction. The Port has been closely engaged with the State on construction traffic and design issues, particularly as they affect operations at Terminal 46 and our other facilities.

To maintain traffic flows, roadway improvements have been made on the SR 519 connection to the waterfront and the Fourth Avenue off-ramp from Spokane Street was completed. Bus service in the downtown area has been increased and efforts are underway to encourage transit, carpools and vanpools. The State and City have robust traffic and construction Web sites providing up-to-date information to the public.

Beginning May 16, both directions of the Alaskan Way Viaduct between Lander Street and Seattle's stadiums will be reduced from three to two lanes. This is a critical step toward taking down the seismically vulnerable southern mile of the viaduct within the next year. Alaskan Way S. surface street will be closed in both directions between S. Atlantic Street and S. Royal Brougham Way until at least 2013 for relocation of the BNSF SIG Yard tail track.

OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR THIS BRIEFING:

WSDOT PowerPoint presentation