Ship Canal Water Quality Project Update

Seattle Freight Advisory Board
August 18, 2015
Agenda

• Background
• Project overview
• Timeline
• Public involvement
Background

What is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)?
Stormwater Runoff is the Problem
There’s plenty of room in the pipe for sewage, but not for stormwater

Since 2009, new development has had to manage its own runoff. Nevertheless, we still have to manage the runoff generated from hard surfaces built before 2009 because the sewer system wasn’t built for this much runoff.
SPU has invested $130M in CSO reduction since 2010

- Sewer system improvement
- Sewer storage project
- Conveyance / flow transfer
- Green Infrastructure project
Integrated Plan
Selected Alternative

- Sewer system improvements by 2020
- Ship Canal Water Quality Project with King County by 2025
  - 5 storage projects by 2025
  - 5 storage projects by 2030
- Stormwater projects
Project overview

• Combines four separate projects into one shared project with King County
• 2.7 mile underground tunnel between Ballard and Wallingford
• 15 million gallons of storage capacity
• Prevents 134 sewer overflows each year (about 50 million gallons)
Where will the tunnel be located?
Project timeline

- Seattle City Council approves Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways, including Ship Canal Water Quality Project
- Project initiation
  - Stakeholder outreach
  - Community survey
- Targeted community outreach
- Draft facility plan
  - Stakeholder outreach
- Supplemental EIS Scoping
  - Public comment period
- Publish Supplemental Draft EIS
  - Public comment period
- Publish Final EIS
- Design workshops
- Construction
- Project complete

2015 2016 2017 2018 2025
Project benefits

• Fewer construction impacts than separate tank projects
  • Less open-trench construction
  • Less excavation and hauling
  • Fewer truck trips
• Reduces overflows from seven outfalls by about 95 percent
• Supported by our regulators and stakeholders
• Smaller footprint, leaving more land in the community
Comparison of relative tunnel sizes locally

- Size of Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel compared to other projects
  - 16 times smaller than the Highway 99 tunnel
  - 2.5 times smaller than the Sound Transit University Link Extension Tunnel
Local Seattle tunnel context

- Since 1880s, 150 tunnels (70+ miles) built for sewers, utilidors, transit
- Numerous successful projects
- Apply lessons learned from prior construction projects to mitigate risks
Engaging the public

• Planning phase

• Stakeholder interviews (April-July) representing:
  ✓ Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and Queen Anne
  ✓ Range of sectors (Industrial, Retail, Neighborhoods, Bikes and Parks)
  ✓ Key issues and organizations

• Community survey (May/June)

• Scoping comment period (July-August)

• Briefings and direct project outreach (Summer)
What we’ve heard

• Stakeholder and direct outreach
  • General support
  • Interest in construction impacts: traffic, business access, parking, noise, air quality

• Community survey
  • Random sample mailing to 10,000 households; 1,570 surveys completed.
  • 95% support the project
  • Key issues:
    • Keep public informed
    • Construction impacts (traffic, noise, air quality/odor, access)
    • Project cost
How to submit scoping comments?

• We’re seeking public input on the range of potential environmental effects to study in the SEIS.

• Review the scoping notice at www.seattle.gov/util/shipcanalproject

• Submit a comment form today, by mail, or email before August 24, 2015.
  
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  Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
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  Seattle, WA 98124-4018
Questions?

For more information, contact:

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• Website:
www.seattle.gov/util/environmentconservation/projects/drainagesystem/shipcanalwaterquality/

• Sign up for the project listserv to receive updates:
http://www.seattle.gov/lists/shipcanalproject.htm