



November 12, 2009 Open House Meeting Summary

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) hosted an Open House about the NE 45th Street Viaduct Project on November 12, 2009 at the University Presbyterian Church from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Project background

The NE 45th Street Viaduct's existing west approach is nearing the end of its structural life and needs to be replaced to maintain a safe and efficient travel corridor for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. This project will replace the 468-foot west approach and evaluate the east approach and main span for seismic retrofit needs, minimizing the need for long-term maintenance and short-term fixes. The project is part of the City of Seattle's Bridging the Gap program which was approved by Seattle voters in 2006.

Meeting purpose

The purpose of the open house was to provide an overview of the project to the general public coinciding with the 60 percent design milestone. The open house provided the public with a better understanding of what to expect during the closure of the NE 45th Street Viaduct and the benefits that the replacement of the west approach will provide. The public was also introduced to the types of construction activities and options for travel alternatives (i.e. detours) so that they can start to plan ahead.

Advertising and notifications

Notification for the open house occurred in the following ways:

- Announced at local community briefings during September, October and November.
- Postcard mailed to all carrier routes in the project area (approximately 23,000).
- Posters were placed at key gathering locations around the project area including libraries, community centers and local businesses.
- Postcards were distributed at key gathering locations and businesses around the project area.
- Press release sent to major local media outlets.
- Display ads placed in local newspapers.
- E-mails sent to elected officials, key stakeholders, and project listservs.
- Calls were made to key stakeholders.
- Event listed on the project Web site www.seattle.gov/Transportation/45th-bridge.htm
- A reminder was posted on the SDOT blog.

Open House materials

- Each member of the public received the following information on four separate handouts:
 - Project fact sheet
 - Comment form

- Open House/meeting room guide to the four stations
- Proposed detour plan
- Four stations with display boards staffed by project team members
 - Welcome and sign-in
 - Station 1:
 - Project area
 - Project need and benefits
 - Environmental review
 - Station 2:
 - Project schedule
 - Design of the new structure
 - Benefits of design
 - Station 3:
 - Traffic impacts during viaduct closure
 - Preliminary detour plan
 - Potential early action projects and mitigation during the viaduct closure
 - Pedestrians, transit and bicycles during the viaduct closure
 - Station 4:
 - Other major projects in the area
 - Seattle Children's Hospital
 - Sound Transit – University of Washington Husky Stadium construction
 - NW Market/45th Street Transit Corridor Improvements Project

Meeting agenda and format

The public meeting was staged in an open house format to allow the public an opportunity to walk through each station at their leisure, ask questions of the project team members and learn more about the project. Light refreshments were provided.

4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open House: guests arrived, signed-in, viewed materials, and talked with project team members one-on-one

7:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned

Attendance

Public

- Approximately 65 people attended the Open House

Staff

SDOT Project team

- Mike Ward, Project Manager
- Maribel Cruz, Outreach Coordinator
- Vincent Mi, Bridge and Structures
- Jeff Bertram, Early Action Projects

- Mark Mazzola, Environmental Review

Consultant staff from Exeltech, Fehr and Peers, and EnviroIssues also attended the open house to support SDOT staff.

Representatives from Seattle Children's Hospital, Sound Transit, and SDOT's NW Market/45th Street Transit Corridor project attended the meeting to talk with the public about their current projects.

Comments and questions

Seventeen comment forms were submitted during the Open House and four comments were submitted via e-mail following the Open House. The comments and questions focused on construction impacts, design concerns, bicycle/pedestrian/transit access, traffic and detour routes.

The comments and questions have been summarized in a *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* guide posted on the project [Web site](#).