



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

February 13, 2006

Dear Friends

We are moving forward with an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to replace the dangerous and deteriorating Alaskan Way Viaduct with a waterfront tunnel. The tunnel will give us the chance to transform the front door of our city into a spectacular public gathering place for generations to come.

We began this work after the Nisqually earthquake shook and damaged the aging, 1950s-era roadway five years ago. **Today, with \$3.2 billion already committed to the project, we have the resources needed to start building the tunnel.**

We are finalizing environmental studies, developing traffic management plans, refining design and rapidly moving toward construction.

This progress is largely a result of the courage and the vision of the State Legislature approving \$2 billion for the project; the Port of Seattle contributing \$200 million, and the relentless efforts of our Congressional delegation in securing \$231 million in federal monies. And with additional local commitments, we have \$3.2 billion dedicated for tunnel construction.

The overall project will cost \$4.4 billion. The good news is that we have refined our plans into a core tunnel project which would cost \$3 billion to \$3.6 billion. This would replace the most critical piece of the Viaduct and Seawall with a tunnel, constructing the south end and central waterfront including improvements to the Battery Street Tunnel. These are the portions at the greatest risk of serious damage in another earthquake. With the money committed, we can start the core tunnel project after environmental review is completed.

We are ready to start with utility relocation in 2008. Major construction would follow in 2010. We have four more years to secure the necessary funding to complete work outside of the core tunnel project. This includes improvements on Aurora and the construction of a new Seawall north of Union Street. These and other improvements will provide the direct route commuters and freight desire from I-5 to the Seattle Center, Uptown and Interbay.

Thanks to the citizens of Seattle and the region, we have made tremendous progress on replacing the Viaduct. Your support helps ensure that we reconnect Seattle to its waterfront and maintain a major piece of our transportation network.

-over-

Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor, 600 Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124-4749
Tel (206) 684-4000 • TDD (206) 615-0476 • Fax (206) 684-5360 • www.seattle.gov/mayor



An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.



Want to learn more about our progress? Please take advantage of any of the following events to get involved:

What: Open House

When: Thursday, March 2, 2006

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Seattle Aquarium, Pier 59, 1483 Alaskan Way

Or join us for a tour of the Viaduct and see the damage first hand.

When: Saturday, March 18, 2006

If interested in attending please RSVP at: viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov. Confirmation and event details will be forwarded.

To keep up-to-date, check out my web site at <http://seattle.gov/mayor/issues/viaduct/>. Or get my inside view on efforts to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm. Thanks for your continued interest and support of the Alaskan Way Tunnel.

Sincerely,



GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle