Next Steps

After receiving public feedback at the October 2007 open house, SDOT will finish current environmental work and develop contract documents to approximately the 50 percent level of completion. SDOT will hold further development until the City secures adequate project funding, which is expected to take 5 years, or more. Though bridge design work will be on hold, SDOT will continue to coordinate with the Port of Seattle about Northbay development, emergency detour routes, cruise ship terminal planning, and other important topics related to the bridge.

Learn More and Submit Comments

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Visit the project website:
www.seattle.gov/transportation/magbridgereplace.htm

You can find the recently published Type, Size & Location Study and Draft Environmental Discipline Reports as well as other project materials.

Designing a Bridge that Meets Your Needs

The Magnolia Bridge provides an important connection between the Magnolia neighborhood and Seattle’s downtown core, and serves the Interbay maritime and industrial community. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has been working with the community to identify the best replacement option for the bridge, which was damaged by landslides and the Nisqually earthquake in 2001.

In the spring of 2006, SDOT decided to replace the existing bridge in the same general corridor, with a similar lane configuration and endpoints (known as “Alternative A”). SDOT determined that this alternative minimizes effects on residents, businesses, and the environment, and is the most cost effective.

What’s Inside?

• SDOT chooses modern, maritime design for detailed elements on the new bridge
• Project funding and next steps
• Thank you, project Design Advisory Group!

What the new Magnolia Bridge might look like from the ground

Bridge type selected and design features recommended: After receiving public input, SDOT selected a preferred structure type for the new Magnolia Bridge. The bridge will be designed using concrete box girders supported by columns that flare out at the top.

A photo simulation of the new Magnolia Bridge seen from Smith Cove Park. Note the haunched curve of the concrete box girders.

City of Seattle
Project Team Chooses Modern Style With Maritime Elements

After selecting the major structure and column types, SDOT turned its attention to more detailed design features. The project team considered several options for each of the following:

* Street and pedestrian lighting
* Railings
* Pedestrian viewpoints facing south
* Wall treatments
* Column treatments
* Pedestrian connections and sidewalks

Based on feedback from the Design Advisory Group, the project team is recommending design features that suggest a modern, maritime theme.

Street and pedestrian lighting

Many cyclists have told us that good bike facilities and better connections to local paths are important. The bridge design will include connections from the bridge to the Elliott Bay Bike Path and other bike routes in the area.

Sidewalk, railings, and lighting

Wall treatments will look like vertical ropes, suggesting maritime activities

SDOT wishes to extend a hearty thanks to the project’s Design Advisory Group members, who have dedicated time, enthusiasm, and creative ideas to the project. For more than four years, community members representing Magnolia, Queen Anne, and other local perspectives have met regularly to provide feedback and guidance to SDOT’s project team. The Design Advisory Group has played a crucial role in designing a bridge that best meets local needs.

Project Cost and Funding: Frequently Asked Questions

How much will the project cost?
SDOT currently estimates that the Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project will cost $262 million. This estimate includes design, right-of-way and construction costs and is based upon starting construction in 2009 to make a direct comparison to earlier estimates.

Why has the cost estimate grown since the 2004 estimate?
The estimate has grown due to significant construction cost increases (e.g., the price of steel and concrete), inflation, and other risk factors. Over the past three years, there has been an unusual 15 percent rate of inflation for highway construction, a much higher rate than the long-term historical average of 3 percent. SDOT is assuming 6.5 percent construction inflation over the next 3 to 4 years.

Has SDOT obtained construction funding?
No, SDOT has not secured adequate construction funding, but continues to pursue available sources and think strategically about funding options. SDOT expects to fund the Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project using several sources, including grants, federal funding, and other local and regional opportunities.