Topics

- Project Background

- Data collection results

- Spokane St Swing Bridge (Low Bridge) closures and detour routes

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Purpose of project

- Make W Marginal Way SW safer and more accessible for all travelers and maintain capacity and operations

  - Safer = drivers traveling at posted speed limits, designated space for people walking and biking, increased awareness at driveways and intersections

  - More accessible = predictable movement for all travelers

  - Close a crucial transportation gap= connect the Duwamish Trail and West Seattle Bridge Trail

  - Capacity = maintain existing freight movements along corridor and to Port

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Background

West Marginal Way SW Improvement Project
VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR

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Project details

As part of the safety and mobility work along West Marginal Way SW, between Marginal Pl SW and Highland Park Way SW, we are:

- Adding a 0.4-mile long on-street protected bike lane to close a crucial gap in the regional walking and biking network

- Planning to implement driveway and Duwamish Trail intersection improvements

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Data collection since High Bridge reopening

4 data collection occurrences:

1. August/September 2022 along east side of corridor for driveway truck, pedestrian, bicycle, and train counts in peak season

2. After the High Bridge reopened in September 2022

3. In October/November 2022 with southbound lane closure

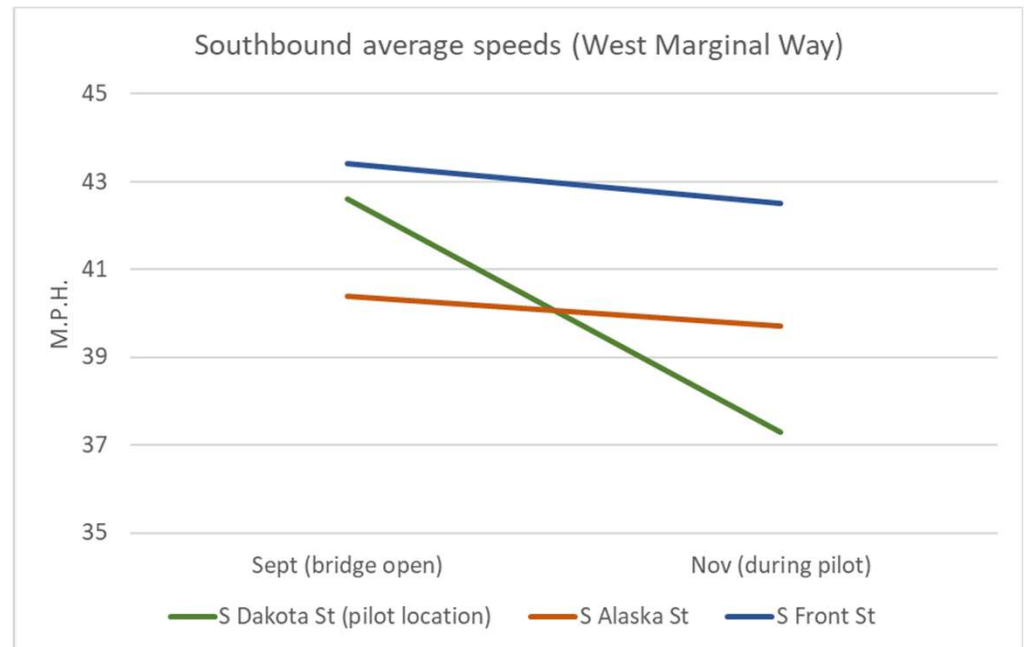4. In January 2023 with temporary protected bike lane

Data Collection

- Between October 23 and November 6, 2022 the southbound curb was closed to test how the proposed design impacted West Marginal Way SW operations

- Data collected included:

  - Driver speeds

  - Driver volumes

  - Walking and biking counts

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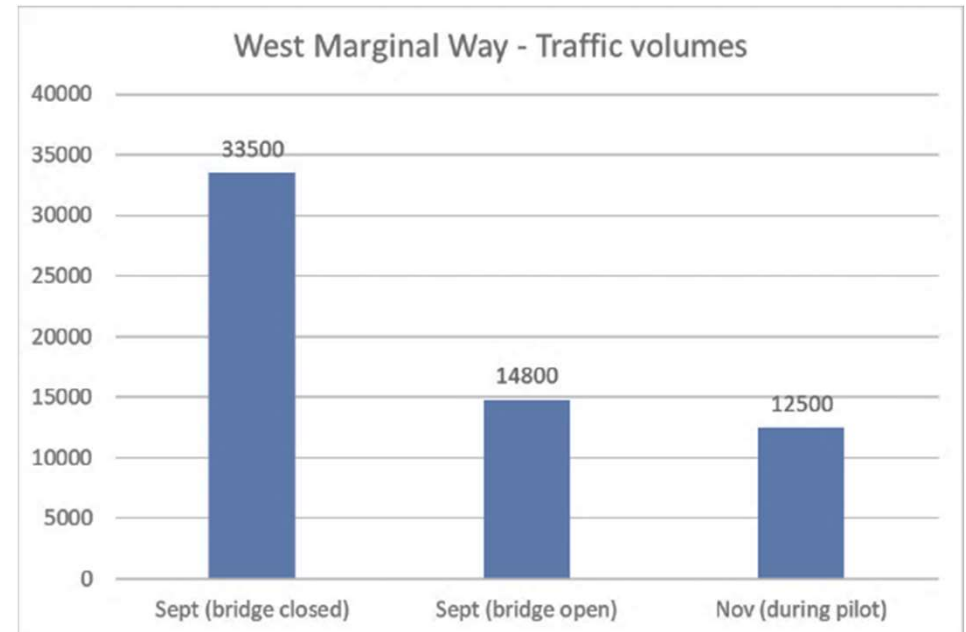Transportation

Findings: Speeds

- Speeds decreased by 12% going from 43 to 37 MPH on average

- Posted speed limit is 30 MPH

- Anticipate speeds moving closer to 30 MPH with permanent project

Southbound average speeds (West Marginal Way)

M.P.H.

Sept (bridge open)   Nov (during pilot)

— S Dakota St (pilot location)   — S Alaska St   — S Front St

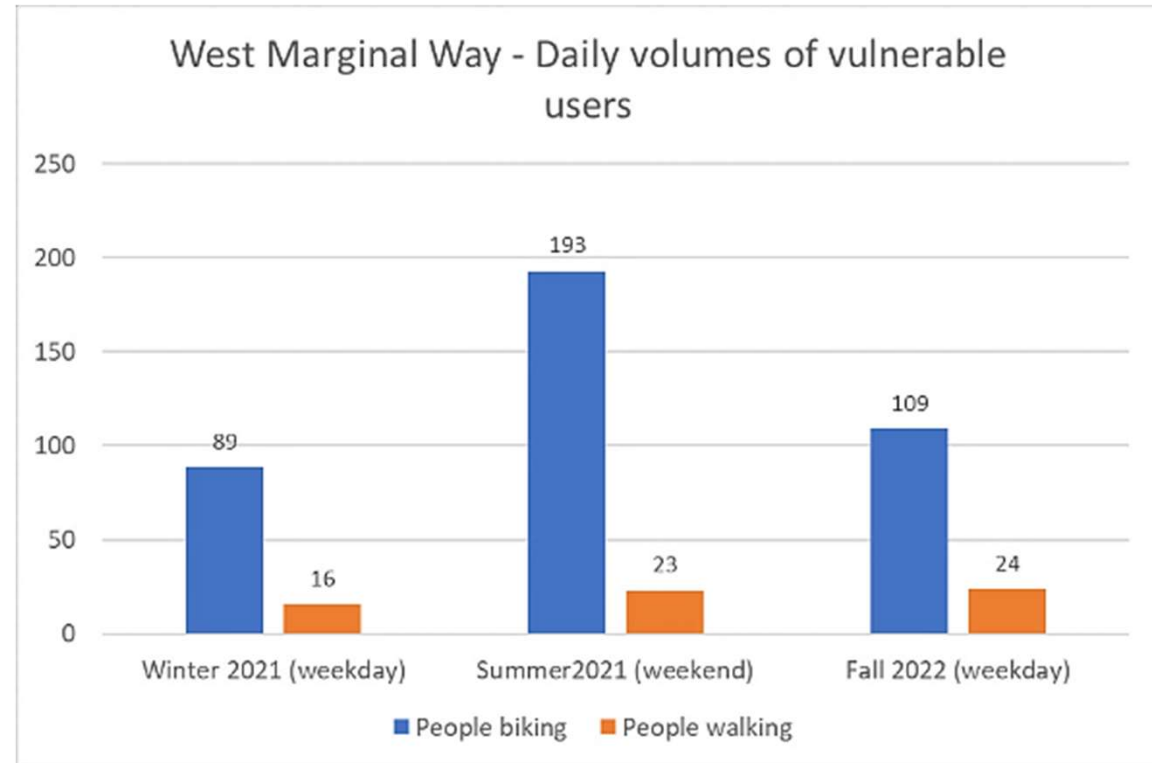**Seattle Department of Transportation**

Findings: Volumes

- Driver volumes dropped about 60% since West Seattle Bridge reopened

- Without the bridge detour, traffic patterns are back to lower levels of approximately 15,000 vehicles per day

- During the two-week lane pilot closure, daily traffic volumes were around 12,500 vehicles per day

West Marginal Way - Traffic volumes

Category	Volume
Sept (bridge closed)	33500
Sept (bridge open)	14800
Nov (during pilot)	12500

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Findings: Walking and Biking Counts

- The number of people walking and biking on the Duwamish River Trail varies seasonally but ranges from approximately 100 to 200 people per day.

- During a typical day, this translates to 20 people walking or biking per hour.

- Better connecting this area by closing the gap in our network could double the number of people biking and walking.

West Marginal Way - Daily volumes of vulnerable users

	People biking	People walking
Winter 2021 (weekday)	89	16
Summer 2021 (weekend)	193	23
Fall 2022 (weekday)	109	24

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Safety Assessment

Safety improvements along driveways that cross the Duwamish Trail and PBL will include:

- median islands
- new signs
- pavement markings

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Key Takeaways

- **Verified negligible impacts to overall operations of W Marginal Way SW.** The pilot closure and traffic models show changes will increase travel time by 2 seconds per trip

- **Indicated a speed reduction would occur after the project is completed.** Detailed on an earlier slide

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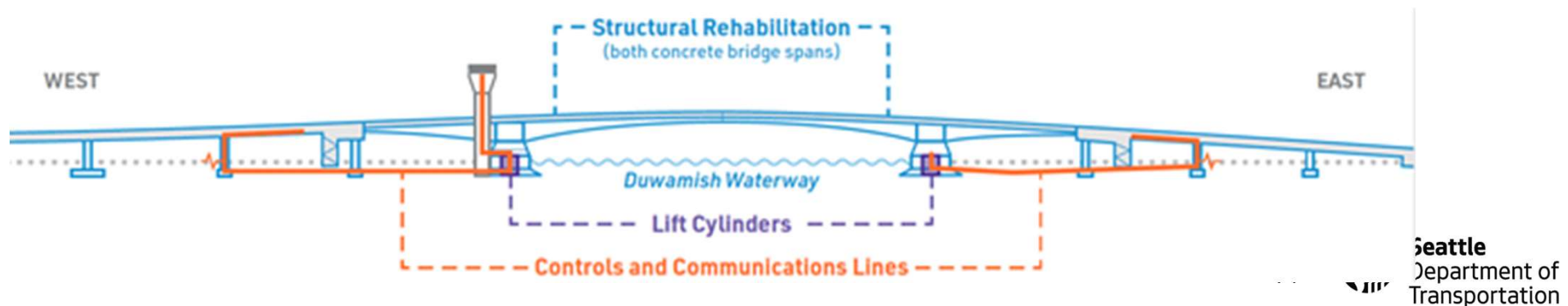Transportation

Bicycle detour

- Low bridge had an emergency closure Dec 23- Jan 13

- Installed temporary bike lane on 1st Ave S and W Marginal Way SW on Jan. 4-5; 1st Ave S removed Jan 14

- There will be future, planned closures in the coming months with a need for bike/pedestrian detour routes

- W Marginal Way SW remains in place while conversations continue about a permanent protected bike lane

Next Steps for Low Bridge Rehabilitation

- Strengthen the bridge (completed Oct 2022)

- Replace pump arrays (scheduled Feb 11 – 14)

- Rehabilitate the east side lift cylinder, which does the heavy lifting to open and close the bridge (Spring 2023)

- Upgrade the control and communications system that open and close the bridge (2023)

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Next Steps

Continue conversations with community partners and stakeholders about the project

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Questions & discussion

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