

**SEATTLE PORT COMMISSION MOTION
SUPPORTING THE RETENTION OF THE SUBSURFACE HYBRID
ALTERNATIVE FOR FURTHER STUDY**

December 15, 2008

Statement in Support of Motion

The Port of Seattle (the “*Port*”) has actively participated in the public process to study replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Port staff has reviewed the transportation and economic analysis of the scenarios developed by Washington State, City of Seattle and Martin Luther King, Jr. County transportation agencies. The Seattle Port Commission (the “*Commission*”) was briefed recently by those agencies about the effects of the replacement options on Port activities and the area's transportation network.

The Commission has advocated for capacity in the transportation system and to preserve access and enable waterfront and current and future industrial operations to grow, which is essential to retaining and attracting new jobs, and creating regional economic vitality. These businesses generate significant tax revenue to support local and state governmental operations. The Commission has also expressed its support of options that minimize disruption on the waterfront. Improvements of State Route 519 at the waterfront, as well as a new design of the Viaduct's south end, will provide significant access improvements to the waterfront.

Two options (I-5/Surface/Transit and Elevated Bypass Hybrid) have been recommended for further study. A Subsurface Hybrid option was not included, primarily due to estimated costs being too high. We are concerned that a surface option may lack the capacity to accommodate further growth, which creates a high risk to shipping, cruise and other waterfront operations, as well as freight mobility within the city. An aerial option could provide the capacity we need, but it may create significant construction impacts on the waterfront and limit the potential to create new connections between the waterfront and Seattle's downtown.

It appears a Subsurface Hybrid could offer important benefits to Port operations and the region's transportation system, which would create new jobs and foster strong regional economic vitality. These benefits include:

- providing economic benefits that may exceed capital costs over the lifetime of the structure;
- ensuring safe and efficient access to the working waterfront during operation;
- minimizing impacts to waterfront access during construction;
- enhancing the waterfront environment for people and goods; and
- providing replacement capacity for long-term regional growth.

For those reasons, the Commission believes that the Port should recommend that the City, State and County retain a Subsurface Hybrid option for further study, as a package with improvements on the surface streets, Interstate 5 and transit. In our current economic situation, it is even more imperative that we make choices that create sustainable jobs, economic growth and environmental improvements for the region and state.

Motion

The SEATTLE PORT COMMISSION hereby directs that the Port send a letter to the Governor of the State of Washington, the Mayor of Seattle and the King County Executive expressing the Commission's recommendation that a Subsurface Hybrid option be retained for further study as part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall replacement project.