

Resolution opposing the replacement of the existing Alaskan Way Viaduct with an even larger elevated structure.

Adopted by the 46th Legislative District Democrats on October 19th, 2006

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Way Viaduct was severely damaged in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) have conducted an Environmental Impact Analysis, and have analyzed five alternative replacement facilities; and

WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2871, signed by the Governor on March 29, 2006, delegated authority to the Governor to designate a preferred alternative for replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seattle Seawall Replacement Project; and

WHEREAS, one of the alternatives currently under consideration by the Governor and WSDOT is an elevated structure that would be fifty percent wider than the existing Viaduct, with larger columns, that would block views of Elliot Bay and loom over the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the nature of commerce and use of the waterfront has changed dramatically in the intervening 50 years since the Viaduct was constructed; and

WHEREAS, replacing the Viaduct with another larger elevated structure is inconsistent with the prevailing uses along Seattle – principally commercial and tourism enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the 46th District Democrats are proponents of sensible transportation solutions that respect neighborhood and community concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The 46th District Democrats believe that it makes no sense to replace the Viaduct with an elevated highway fifty percent larger than the existing structure. That we are concerned that the traffic noise, exhaust smell, and tons of concrete will foul an area designed for people not cars. That it would be a tragedy to apply 1950's logic and a poor solution to solve the problems of the 21st Century. Given the foregoing we are strongly opposed to any alternative that would replace the Viaduct with another elevated structure.

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