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To submit ads or articles of interest please contact the President of the section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month to be included in the next publication.

For address changes/corrections, notify the Editor or the WEBmaster.



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Tacoma Olympia Section ASCE
Civil Engineer
THE NEWSLETTER

December 2002

This Month's Meeting

**Joint Meeting with
Seattle Section**
Thursday, Dec 12

**Museum of Glass
Prizm Cafe**

1801 Dock St Tacoma

Reception: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:15 pm
Program: 7:00 pm

Buffet Dinner \$22.00*

RSVP by eod Dec 9
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Note: Members with
reservations who do not
attend will be billed.

1/2 price for students*

The Future of the Alaska Way Viaduct

**\$3.9 to 4.7 billion esti-
mate for the project**

Tom Madden, Maureen Sullivan from WSDOT and Bob Chandler from the City of Seattle will talk about the urgent need to rebuild the 49-year old Alaska Way Viaduct and 68-year old waterfront seawall because of their age, risk to public safety, seismic vulnerability, deteriorated condition, and critical role in the region's transportation system.

Experts have determined there is a one-in-twenty chance that an earthquake could permanently close the viaduct in the next ten years. A seismic event poses a great risk to the seawall as well. The seawall supports Alaska Way and the fill soil upon which the viaduct is built. If the seawall fails, it could lead to permanent damage to the viaduct, Alaskan Way, as well as property and buildings adjacent to Alaska Way.

Playing a critical role in our transportation system, the viaduct carries 110,000 vehicles each day - one quarter of the north-south traffic through downtown Seattle. It was originally built to carry 65,000 vehicles per day.

The current cost estimate range for preferred alternative is \$3.9 billion to \$4.7 billion. Clearly this would be one of the largest projects in the region. The design challenges make it one of the more fascinating projects as well.

President's Corner

Chris Beckman
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The elections are now history and we are left to sort out the results and potential impacts to us here in the south Puget Sound area. The referendum on state-wide transportation funding was turned down at the polls while the see-saw race in Seattle for their monorail wound up in the win column. The Governor has indicated a resolve on his part to continue the effort to find funding for much-needed infrastructure completion and enhancements to keep Washington State a viable economic climate for business retention and growth. I wish him well in that endeavor. Thanksgiving this year was one that revolved around the typical family gathering and exchange of gift lists for the coming holiday. I was also thankful for having employment and a focus outside of work and family - ASCE.

This month's program/speaker is provided by the Seattle Section and promises to enlighten those of us to the south on the Alaska Way Viaduct project and process. December is always an interesting time to gather with our neighbors to the north and renew acquaintances and meet spouses of members. The venue for the dinner will be of interest to those members that missed the May meeting that was preceded by a guided tour of the Glass Museum in its final stage of completion.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Chris Beckman