



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 99 Aurora Bridge Fence

Fall 2008

The SR 99 Aurora Bridge connects Seattle's Fremont and Queen Anne neighborhoods across the Lake Washington Ship Canal and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In March 2008, the Washington State Legislature approved \$1.54 million for fence design and directed WSDOT to begin designing a fence to deter people from jumping off of the bridge.

Design criteria and cost

In early 2009, the Legislature will consider funding for fence construction. The estimated cost for constructing a fence is \$5.92 million. This includes material and fabrication costs as well as state and local sales taxes. It also includes the cost of activities needed to successfully complete the job, including those for labor, traffic control, erosion and sediment control, and daily inspections. The total estimated project cost, including design and construction, is \$7.46 million.

WSDOT must consider a variety of criteria as it designs a fence. A fence design must:

- Be compatible with the historic character of the bridge.
- Gain approval from Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board and the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- Meet engineering and constructability requirements.
- Fit within the construction budget.
- Be no more than eight feet nine inches above the sidewalk to allow for bridge inspections.

Preliminary fence designs

WSDOT is moving forward with a fence design that utilizes thin vertical elements, such as steel cables or rods. WSDOT feels such a design provides an aesthetically simple deterrent. It is also a design that minimizes the effect on the historic character of the bridge and views from the bridge, two values heard from the WSDOT advisory committee and the greater community.

Learn more

To increase awareness of the project and gain input from communities around the bridge, WSDOT is offering to host project briefings. These briefings can take various forms, such as informal brown bags or agenda items on community council meeting agendas. Organizations can learn more about the need for the project, why WSDOT is moving forward with a fence, and how they can offer comments and stay informed.

You can learn more about the project, review design concepts and submit comments by visiting WSDOT's Web site www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR99/AuroraBridgeFence.

You can also provide comments or schedule a briefing by contacting:

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Advisory committee

WSDOT convened an advisory committee made up of organizations and individuals that were involved in the City of Seattle's community conceptual design process. Advisory committee goals include ensuring the fence design reflects community values and issues, complements the bridge and surrounding landscape, and meets historic landmark standards. While WSDOT maintains decision-making authority regarding final design, the advisory committee plays a vital role in the development of fence designs and identification of a preferred design.

WSDOT also works with a technical design committee. This committee includes a WSDOT bridge architect and cultural resource specialist, and volunteer architects from Johnston Architects and Clinkston Brunner Architects.

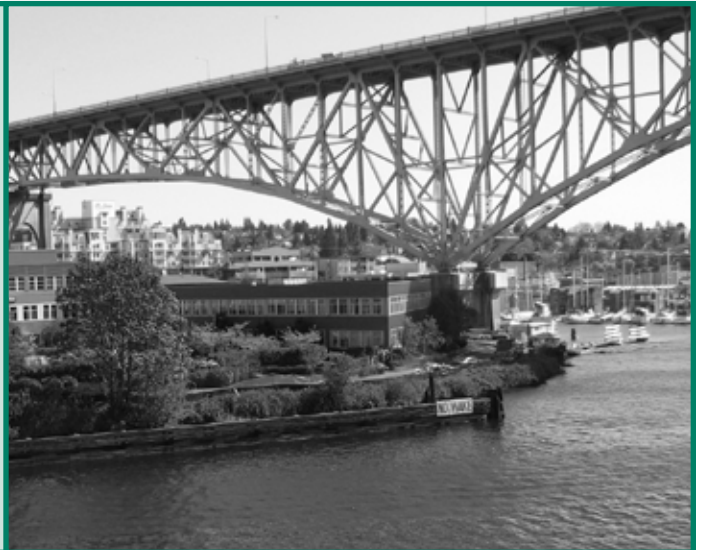
Advisory committee members

- Fremont Chamber of Commerce
- Fremont Neighborhood Council
- Historic Seattle
- King County Crisis Clinic
- Department of Neighborhoods, Lake Union Neighborhood District
- Landmarks Preservation Board (former member)
- Office of King County Councilmember Larry Phillips
- Seattle Fremont Individuals and Employees Nonprofit to Decrease Suicides (FRIENDS)
- Queen Anne Community Council

Next steps

WSDOT will present the fence design to the Landmarks Preservation Board for review and decision and submit a design to the Legislature for funding in early 2009.

If the Legislature approves construction funding, WSDOT expects to complete its design and advertise the project to contractors in summer 2009. We will select a contractor through competitive bidding in fall 2009. Construction would begin in early 2010.



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