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**Seattle Parks Foundation Applauds Governor, Mayor and County Exec
for Viaduct Replacement Decision**

Opportunity Opens to Create Great New Waterfront Park

SEATTLE – Seattle Parks Foundation applauds today’s recommendation of Gov. Chris Gregoire, King County Executive Ron Sims and Mayor Greg Nickels to build a deep-bore tunnel to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct along Seattle’s central waterfront. With the removal of the elevated highway and rerouting of traffic through an inland tunnel, a historic opportunity exists to create a spectacular waterfront park in Seattle’s “front yard.”

“Seattle Parks Foundation is excited to work with the state, county, and city to transform the central waterfront into a vibrant, green, and accessible public space,” said Karen Daubert, executive director of Seattle Parks Foundation.

As a leading local parks and green space organization, Seattle Parks Foundation is committed to engaging government, business, and community partners to leave a legacy of a safe, connected, and active green space along Seattle’s central waterfront.

“After leading a successful campaign to bring \$146 million in funding to Seattle’s neighborhood parks and creating the new 12-acre Lake Union Park, Seattle Parks Foundation is looking forward to the next challenge to improve and expand parks and green spaces in Seattle,” said John Nesholm, board president of Seattle Parks Foundation. “The central waterfront is our front yard, and it is time to do some major landscaping.”

On Dec. 12, Seattle Parks Foundation sent a letter to elected officials at the state, county and city, stating opposition to any elevated structure to replace the viaduct that would create a visual, physical, and psychological barrier between downtown and the waterfront. On Dec. 22, Seattle Parks Foundation joined in supporting the position of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee for the Surface/I-5/Transit Hybrid Alternative with the potential for a deep-bore tunnel.

“Now that a transportation solution has been agreed upon by the leaders of our community, the time has come for those who wish to create a spectacular waterfront park to come together with a common vision,” said Daubert. “Seattle Parks Foundation has our shovels ready, and we strongly encourage the Legislature to adopt this recommendation.”

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