



Washington State Department of Transportation

Seattle City Council

News Advisory

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Public Outreach on Aurora Bridge Barrier Begins

Seattle City Council and Washington State Department of Transportation start outreach on design for a new barrier on the Aurora Bridge

SEATTLE — The City of Seattle and the State of Washington announced today that the first public workshop on design concepts for a new barrier on the Aurora Bridge will be held on Wednesday, January 30th at B.F. Day Elementary School, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Governor Christine Gregoire has identified \$1.4 million in funding for the design of an eight-foot, nine-inch high, suicide-prevention fence on the Aurora Bridge as one of her transportation priorities for the coming session of the Washington State Legislature. Last November, the Seattle City Council appropriated \$75,000 for community outreach and facilitation of design ideas for such a barrier on the bridge.

“I am delighted that we could fund outreach on design ideas for the barrier,” states **Councilmember Jan Drago**, Chair of the Council’s Transportation Committee. “This is a great opportunity to show the City’s support for funding for the barrier as proposed by Governor Gregoire.”

“We look forward to working with the City and the local community to design a fence that will complement the historic bridge while still improving safety for all bridge users,” **Washington State Secretary of Transportation Paula Hammond** said.

The Aurora Bridge was built in 1931 and is officially named the George Washington Memorial Bridge. The bridge is 3000 feet long and is used by over 100,000 vehicles per day. The bridge is 155 feet above the Lake Washington Ship Canal and unfortunately has been the site of more than 50 suicides since 1995. The Aurora Bridge is also listed on the National Historic Register and the State of Washington Historic Register. As an historic bridge set in a well established residential neighborhood, the City wants to actively engage the broader community to gain support for the barrier and its design. The City Council has hired EnviroIssues, a public outreach firm, to facilitate the process. The City Council and the Washington State Department of Transportation will collaborate on the outreach process.

What: Public Workshop for Design Concepts of Suicide-Prevention Fence on the Aurora Bridge

Where: B.F. Day Elementary, 3921 Linden Ave N (Fremont Neighborhood), Seattle

When: Wednesday, January 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.