

Elliott Bay Seawall

The Elliott Bay Seawall, which runs from Washington Street to Broad Street along the waterfront, was built between 1916 and 1934. It has deteriorated significantly in the ensuing years and could fail in the event of a moderate to large earthquake, or even a large storm. While the city of Seattle has committed over \$3 million to temporary repairs of the seawall since the Nisqually Earthquake, the seawall is a public safety hazard that must be replaced. The need to replace the seawall presents the City of Seattle with an opportunity to enhance the critical marine habitat along the shoreline. Replacement of the seawall, along with [Waterfront Seattle](#)'s efforts to reshape the public spaces along the central waterfront, will make the waterfront more inviting and accessible to Seattle residents and visitors.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has begun the environmental review required by state and federal law.

Project engineers are working to identify seawall construction alternatives, including such options as soil improvement (pumping grout into the ground) and drilled shafts. SDOT has also retained the engineering design firm Tetra Tech to assist with further development of concepts for the new seawall, working to incorporate the desired habitat improvements and better public access to the waterfront. The functions of the various piers and diverse characteristics along the waterfront present opportunities and challenges, such that the final structure may vary between locations.

The current plan calls for replacing the seawall in two phases. The first phase is from Washington Street to Pike Street, with construction expected to begin in 2013. The second phase, from Pike Street north to Broad Street, would follow as funding is secured. The goal is to have Phase 1 construction completed before the existing Alaskan Way Viaduct is demolished in 2016.

The Elliott Bay Seawall Project team is working in conjunction with the Central Waterfront Stakeholders Group (which includes the Seawall Stakeholder Subgroup), comprised of waterfront business owners and tenants, professionals from the design and environmental fields, representatives from the Port of Seattle and Washington State Ferries, and downtown community members and residents. The Central Waterfront Stakeholders Group is providing advice to both the Elliott Bay Seawall Project and Waterfront Seattle.