



BALLARD BRIDGE PLANNING STUDY

DROP-IN SESSION

JULY 31, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT

EVENT OVERVIEW

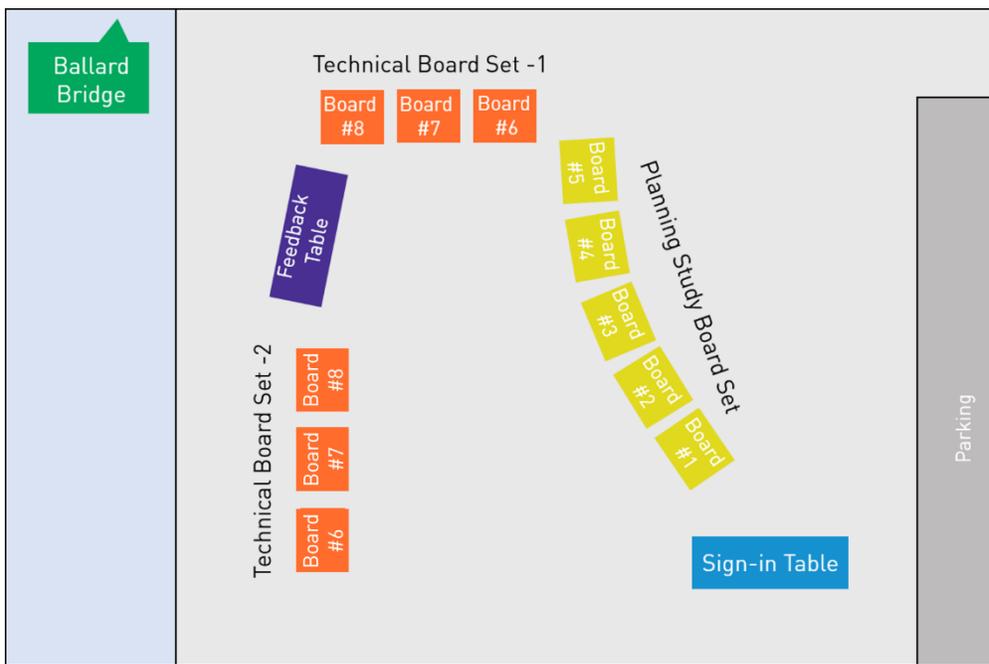
On July 31, 2019, we hosted a drop-in session for the Ballard Bridge Planning Study at Fisherman's Terminal (3919 18th Ave W) in Interbay. The drop-in session was from 6 PM to 7:30 PM; attendees could come drop in anytime within that window.

There were 4 Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff members and 6 SDOT consultants in attendance.

EVENT LAYOUT

The room was set up with multiple stations:

- SDOT sign-in table
 - Project factsheet
- SDOT Ballard Bridge Planning Study board set
 1. Welcome and Project Overview board
 2. History of the Ballard Bridge board
 3. Timeline and Funding board
 4. Online Community Survey Results: Current Use board
 5. Online Community Survey Results: Desired Use board
- SDOT technical information board sets (x2)
 6. Ballard Bridge Considerations board
 7. Interactive Additional Considerations board
 8. Ballard Bridge Options board
- Feedback table
 - Sticky notes and pens for written feedback
 - Comment cards



**Drawing not to scale*

ATTENDANCE

Anecdotally, approximately 50 people attended. 22 people signed in, though the layout of the event did not require all attendees to visit the sign-in table. The photos below show the plaza and how people interacted with the different stations and staff.



Figure 1: Attendees viewing display boards



Figure 2: Staff answering questions at the technical boards



Figure 3: Staff speaking with attendees at the 3 stations

WHAT WE HEARD

Throughout the drop-in session, we were looking for feedback from the community on their transportation needs and values for the bridge. We shared the initial feedback heard through the online community survey and had boards for attendees to offer considerations for the technical team. We gathered feedback using sticky notes, comment cards, and verbal comments on transportation needs in the area.

Written Feedback on Sticky notes and Comment Cards

- Bi-directional bike and pedestrian path to allow safe travel
- Lane reconfiguration to allow more efficient travel, including:
 - Bus lane only
 - Wider lanes
- On/off ramp improvements
 - Widening them
 - Rerouting vehicle traffic to I-5 so it's more localized
 - Using a toll system for vehicles once transit is efficiently in place
 - Enhancing signage at intersections and calming traffic speeds

- Importance of freight connections to local Ballard/Interbay businesses
- Coordination with the ST3 and the future Link light rail
- Near-term improvements to address present safety and traffic concerns
- Address climate change through transportation
- Reduce the amount of bridge openings
 - Less wait time
 - Greater predictability
- Improve/prioritize the bridge for car travel

APPENDIX A: DISPLAY BOARDS

WELCOME TO THE BALLARD BRIDGE PLANNING STUDY DROP-IN SESSION



What is the Ballard Bridge Planning Study?
We've launched the Ballard Bridge Planning Study to evaluate how to bring the bridge up to current transportation, functional, and structural standards including improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and keeping buses and freight moving. While we perform regular maintenance and frequent inspections on the bridge to ensure it's operational and safe for road and marine traffic, due to the age of the structure, more significant rehabilitation may be needed. Since the bridge is in good condition today, we have an opportunity to plan.

The Ballard Bridge Planning Study will...

- Explore feasible rehabilitation and replacement options
- Survey community members on their transportation needs and values
- Evaluate multimodal mobility and access options based on geometric and traffic analysis
- Investigate cost-effective and constructible structure types
- Identify associated costs, risks, benefits, and trade-offs of each feasible alternative
- Provide a comparison of alternatives to inform future investments along the Interbay Corridor

We look forward to working with you and your neighbors throughout the planning study process!

Seattle Department of Transportation **MOVE SEATTLE**

HISTORY OF THE BALLARD BRIDGE

1917 – The Ballard Bridge Opens
Work on the Ballard Bridge began in 1915 in conjunction with construction of the Lake Washington ship canal. The bridge opened to traffic on December 15, 1917.

1933 – Deck Replacement
The original creosoted wood deck was replaced with an open-mesh steel deck. A 1934 census counted 12,679 vehicles crossing the bridge over a 15-hour period.

1940 – New Approaches
The original wooden approaches were replaced with approaches made of steel and concrete. The bridge was closed for a year and a half during construction. A parade was held to celebrate the re-opening of the Ballard Bridge.

1969 – Consolidated Control Tower
The four original control towers were replaced with a single control tower on the Eastern side of the Southern bascule pier.

2003 – Ballard Gateway
Eight statues depicting Ballard's Native American and Scandinavian heritage were erected on the bridge's north approach. These sculptures, titled the "Ballard Gateways," were created by Washington artists Tom Askman and Lea Anne Lake.

2014 – Seismic Retrofits
Funded by the 2006 "Bridging the Gap" transportation levy, SDOT made necessary seismic improvements to 7 bridges, including the Ballard Bridge. The bridge received seismic retrofits to strengthen existing columns.

2014 – Bridge Sidewalk Widening Study
We conducted the Ballard Bridge Sidewalk Widening Study to evaluate alternatives to make travel across the Ballard Bridge more comfortable for pedestrians and people on bicycles. This study informs our rehabilitation concept.

2019 – Ballard Bridge Planning Study
We've launched the Ballard Bridge Planning Study to evaluate how to bring the bridge up to current transportation, functional, and structural standards including improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and keeping buses and freight moving. The study, funded by the Levy to Move Seattle, will explore feasible rehabilitation and replacement options for the long-term future of the bridge.

Citations:
• Historical Encyclopedia of Washington State History, "Ballard Bridge Seattle" Essay 112d) by Fritz La Long, April 4, 2017.
• Archival Photographs Archives, Ballard Bridge Photographs, Accessed July 5, 2019.
• Ballard Bridge, with historical photographs, Seattle, Reports 15, 1918, "The Ballard Bridge" by Seattle City Engineer, H. J. Fox.

Seattle Department of Transportation **MOVE SEATTLE**

PLANNING STUDY TIMELINE & FUNDING

PLANNING STUDY PROCESS

	2019			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Stakeholder Meetings with agency and community partners, including local Tribal, Federal, Seattle, BNSF, and departmental partners and community organizations	█	█	█	█
Advisory Board Briefings to evaluate and receive feedback on the study and recommendations	█	█	█	█
Online Survey to collect the largest number of responses and feedback on desired features for the bridge	█	█	█	█
Drop-in Sessions & Community Events to discuss the Ballard Bridge Planning Study, evaluate project progress, present alternatives, and collect community feedback	█	█	█	█
Community Councils & Other Community Group Briefings to discuss the study of the study process and progress, and to provide more opportunities for community comments and questions	█	█	█	█
Finalize Alternatives Analysis and Share Results with SDOT, State, and Mayor's Office, Tribal, County, and State elected officials	█	█	█	█

2020

- **Finalize Alternatives Analysis and Share Results** with SDOT, State, and Mayor's Office, Tribal, County, and State elected officials
- **Advisory Board Briefings** to evaluate and receive feedback on the study and recommendations
- **Stakeholder Meetings** with agency and community partners, including local Tribal, Federal, Seattle, BNSF, and departmental partners and community organizations
- **Online Survey** to collect the largest number of responses and feedback on desired features for the bridge
- **Drop-in Sessions & Community Events** to discuss the Ballard Bridge Planning Study, evaluate project progress, present alternatives, and collect community feedback
- **Community Councils & Other Community Group Briefings** to discuss the study of the study process and progress, and to provide more opportunities for community comments and questions

This planning study is funded by the Levy to Move Seattle, approved by voters in 2015. The 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle provides funding to improve safety for all travelers, maintain our streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. Learn more about the levy at www.seattle.gov/LevyToMoveSeattle.

The State has marked \$700K in the 2019-2021 budget to investigate the Ballard-Interbay Regional Transportation System and provide recommendations to our elected officials on maintaining and improving capacity to move people and goods along this important corridor. The study is expected to launch later this year.

Seattle Department of Transportation **MOVE SEATTLE**

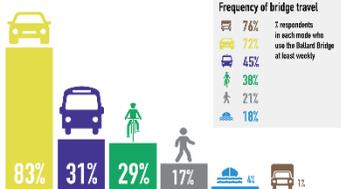
WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Online Community Survey Results

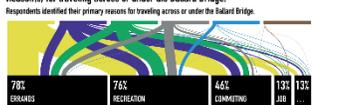
CURRENT USE

To ensure we develop bridge options that incorporate the broad needs and values of the community and people using the Ballard Bridge, we conducted an online survey on current and desired bridge use.

Typical modes of transportation when traveling across or under the Ballard Bridge.
Respondents selected all applicable modes of transportation that they use when traveling across or under the Ballard Bridge for different purposes.



Reasons for traveling across or under the Ballard Bridge.
Respondents identified their primary reasons for traveling across or under the Ballard Bridge.



Bridge travel timing by transportation mode(s).
Respondents identified their typical times of bridge travel by mode.



Seattle Department of Transportation **MOVE SEATTLE**

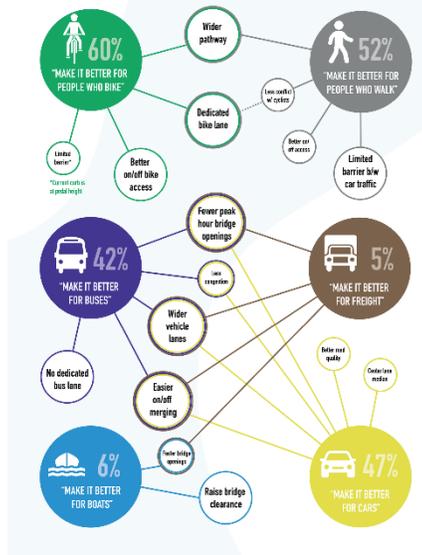
WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Online Community Survey Results

DESIRED USE

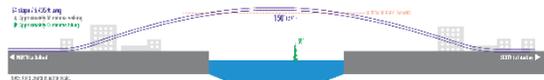
Top priorities for improvement.

Respondents selected the types of improvements that they would like the City to prioritize for the Ballard Bridge. Respondents selected the types of improvements that they would like the City to prioritize for the Ballard Bridge. Respondents selected the types of improvements that they would like the City to prioritize for the Ballard Bridge.

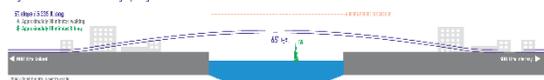


BALLARD BRIDGE OPTIONS

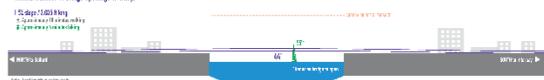
HIGH LEVEL FIXED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



MID LEVEL MOVABLE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



REHABILITATION OF EXISTING MOVABLE BRIDGE (LOW LEVEL)



This graphic represents the technical options being considered by the planning study. It does not represent a design or proposed alternatives.

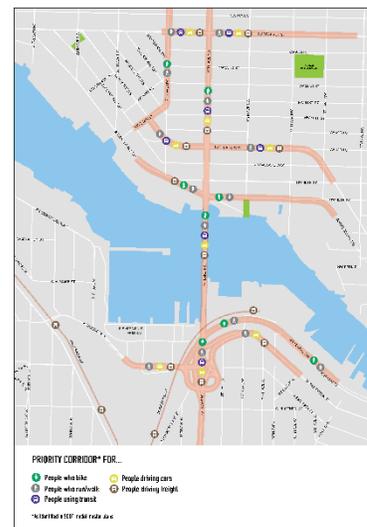
WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

Write your feedback on sticky notes

BALLARD BRIDGE CONSIDERATIONS

As we explore options for the Ballard Bridge, we must consider factors such as structural feasibility, cost, and community transportation needs. Specific considerations include:

- Maintain multimodal access to Leary Way NW
- Maintain multimodal access to W Emerson St & W Nickerson St
- Provide safe multimodal merges, diverges, and connections
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Maintain pedestrian and bicycle access to Burke Gilman & Ship Canal Trails
- Aim for roadway grades at or less than 5% (max grade of 7% as necessary)
- Maintain access for over-legal loads (20-ft x 20-ft)
- Minimize property effects
- Predictability of bridge openings for marine and roadway traffic



APPENDIX B: NOTIFICATIONS

In addition to the notifications shown below, an email announcement was sent to the project listserv and an announcement posted on the webpage.

MAILER



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 2871

Ballard Bridge Planning Study Drop-In Session



JOIN US!

Wednesday, July 31
Stop by at any time between
6 PM – 7:30 PM

Fishermen's Terminal
Seattle Fishermen's Memorial Plaza — Dock 7
3919 18th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119

If you need this information translated, please call 206-775-8894.
Servicios de traducción e interpretación disponibles bajo petición
206-775-8894.
Matutulungan ka naming maintindihan kung hihingi kang tulong
206-775-8894.
요청하시면 번역이나 통역을 제공해드립니다 206-775-8894.
Dịch và thông dịch viên sẵn sàng nếu có sự yêu cầu 206-775-8894.
Haddii aad dooneyso turjubeen fadlen wac 206-775-8894.



**BALLARD BRIDGE
PLANNING STUDY
DROP-IN SESSION**



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Leap to
MOVE SEATTLE



PROJECT OVERVIEW

We've launched the Ballard Bridge Planning Study. While we perform regular maintenance and frequent inspections on the bridge to ensure its operational and safe for road and marine traffic, due to the age of the structure, more significant rehabilitation may be needed. Since the bridge is in good condition today, we have an opportunity to plan.

The Ballard Bridge Planning Study, funded by the Levy to Move Seattle, will explore feasible rehabilitation and replacement options for the long-term future of the bridge.

Through the end of the year, we'll work with our agency partners, advisory boards, and community members to identify needs and values and propose options that work to meet them.

UPCOMING DROP-IN SESSION

We're hosting a drop-in session and invite you to join us. The drop-in session is a good opportunity to learn about the Ballard Bridge Planning Study and to talk to the project team about your needs and values for the bridge. We'll share information about the study scope, goals, and timeline, as well as a summary of the feedback we received from our online community survey.

You can drop-in any time between 6 PM—7:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

GET INVOLVED

We're committed to keeping you informed throughout the study. If you'd like more information, please use one of the following resources:

- Learn more about the study and to sign up for the project listserv visit our webpage: www.seattle.gov/transportation/BallardBridge
- Email the study team at BallardBridge@seattle.gov
- Call the study team at (206) 775-8894

This study is funded by the 9-year Levy to Move Seattle, approved by voters in 2015. Learn more about the levy at: www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

206-775-8894 | BallardBridge@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/transportation/BallardBridge

PLANNING STUDY PROCESS

		2019			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Stakeholder Meetings: with agency and community partners, including Sound Transit, Port of Seattle, BNSF, and adjacent BNSF and community organizations				
	Advisory Board Briefings: to involve and seek assistance from 31st, Fishermen's, Emerald, and Fremont advisory boards				
	Online Survey: to introduce the project scope and schedule, as well as better understand stakeholders for users of the Ballard Bridge				
	Drop-in Sessions & Community Events: to discuss the Ballard Bridge history, review evaluation process, present analyses, and collect community input				
	Community Councils & Other Community Group Briefings: to inform the public of the study purpose and progress, and to receive more opportunities for community comments and suggestions				
	Finalize Alternatives Analysis and Share Results: with SDCOT directors, the Mayor, and our local, county, and state elected officials				

Subject to change

KEY

- Technical Scoping to identify viable alternatives
- Advisory Board Briefings
- Online Survey
- Drop-in Sessions & Community Events
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Councils & Other Community Group Briefings
- Finalize Alternatives Analysis and Share Results



Wednesday, July 31 | 6 PM—7:30 PM

Fishermen's Terminal

Seattle Fishermen's Memorial Plaza — Dock 7
 3919 18th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119



MOBILE DISPLAY

A trifold display board was placed at Magnolia Library, Queen Anne Library, and Ballard Library approximately 2 weeks before the drop-in session.

BALLARD BRIDGE PLANNING STUDY

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THE BALLARD BRIDGE

The Ballard Bridge, built in 1917, spans the eastern edge of the Salmon Bay and connects Ballard to Magnolia, Queen Anne, and Downtown via Interbay. Today the 2,854-foot bridge carries more than 37,000 vehicles per day across the Lake Washington Ship Canal. Over the last century, while the look and function of the bridge may not have changed much, we've been retrofitting and maintaining the structure to keep it moving and safe, including a recent series of seismic improvements completed in 2014.



Ballard Bridge Facing North (1956) - King County Municipal Archives



Ballard Bridge (1957) - King County Municipal Archives



Ballard Bridge Facing East

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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The Ballard Bridge Planning Study, funded by the Levy to Move Seattle, will explore feasible rehabilitation and replacement options for the long-term future of the bridge. It is the second of ten studies to help us assess and manage roadway structure maintenance needs and maximize future investments.

The planning study identifies associated costs, risks, benefits, and trade-offs of each option. Through the end of the year, we'll work with our agency partners, advisory boards, and community members to identify needs and values and propose options that meet them.



JOIN US!

UPCOMING DROP-IN SESSION

Wednesday, July 31 | 6 PM—7:30 PM
Fishermen's Terminal
Seattle Fishermen's Memorial — Dock 7
3919 18th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119



We are hosting a drop-in session and hope you can join us. The drop-in session is a good opportunity to learn about the Ballard Bridge Planning Study and to talk to the project team about your priorities and preferences. We'll be sharing information about the project scope, goals, and timeline, as well as a summary of the feedback we received from our online community survey. You can drop-in any time between 6 PM—7:30 PM. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Visit our web page www.seattle.gov/transportation/BallardBridge to sign up for email alerts.

WE HEARD FROM YOU

To ensure we develop bridge options that incorporate the broad needs and values of the community and people using the Ballard Bridge, we conducted an online survey on current and desired bridge use.

-  **2,808** survey participants
-  The majority of respondents selected improvements for **people walking and biking as their top priority**
-  **72%** of respondents said they travel across the bridge by car at least once a week
-  **Over 370** respondents said they rely on the bridge as part of their job*

Attend the upcoming drop-in session to learn more!

*Not including their commute

PROJECT TIMELINE

PLANNING STUDY PROCESS

PLANNING STUDY PROCESS	START	END
1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SURVEY	Jan 2018	Jul 2018
2. ANALYSIS & OPTION DEVELOPMENT	Jul 2018	Dec 2018
3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD	Dec 2018	Jan 2019
4. FINAL REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS	Jan 2019	Mar 2019
5. IMPLEMENTATION	Mar 2019	2025

We'll continue to share information and work with our agency partners, advisory boards, and community members as we move through the process.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION
 206-775-8874 | BallardBR@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/transportation/BallardBridge

Need a Translation?
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 Multilingual language assistance: call 206-775-8894.

언어지원: 206-775-8894, 혹은 이메일: BallardBR@seattle.gov
 Dịch vụ thông dịch viên sẵn sàng nếu có sự yêu cầu: 206-775-8894.
 Іноді і задіється іношій мова, будь ласка, зв'язуйтеся з нами за номером 206-775-8894.




A-FRAME SIGNS

4 A-Frame signs were placed at the on and off ramps to the Ballard Bridge on July 30, 2019.

BALLARD BRIDGE PLANNING STUDY

LEARN MORE
Drop-In Session
Wednesday, July 31
6 - 7:30 PM
Fishermen's Terminal
Dock 7

(3919 18th Ave W)

Contact:

BallardBridge@seattle.gov

(206) 775-8894

www.seattle.gov/transportation/BallardBridge



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Levy to

MOVE SEATTLE

