

An aerial, black and white photograph of a multi-lane highway in Seattle, Washington. The highway has several lanes in each direction, with a median. There are many cars and trucks on the road. In the background, the city skyline is visible with various skyscrapers. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

SEATTLE, WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS

Photo: WSDOT

THE CASE FOR REJECTING REFERENDUM 1

IN SEATTLE, WE INVEST IN OUR PRIORITIES

We vote to spend our limited public dollars on things that match our priorities to create a better future for our city – things like parks, libraries, community centers and transit – things we all use and value. With Seattle on the hook for any and all cost overruns for the tolled tunnel, those priorities are in jeopardy.

We need to tell politicians to say NO to the tolled tunnel until they come up with a better plan that protects us from devastating cost overruns like we have seen in Boston's infamous "Big Dig" and our own Brightwater tunnel that is years behind schedule and hundreds of millions over budget.



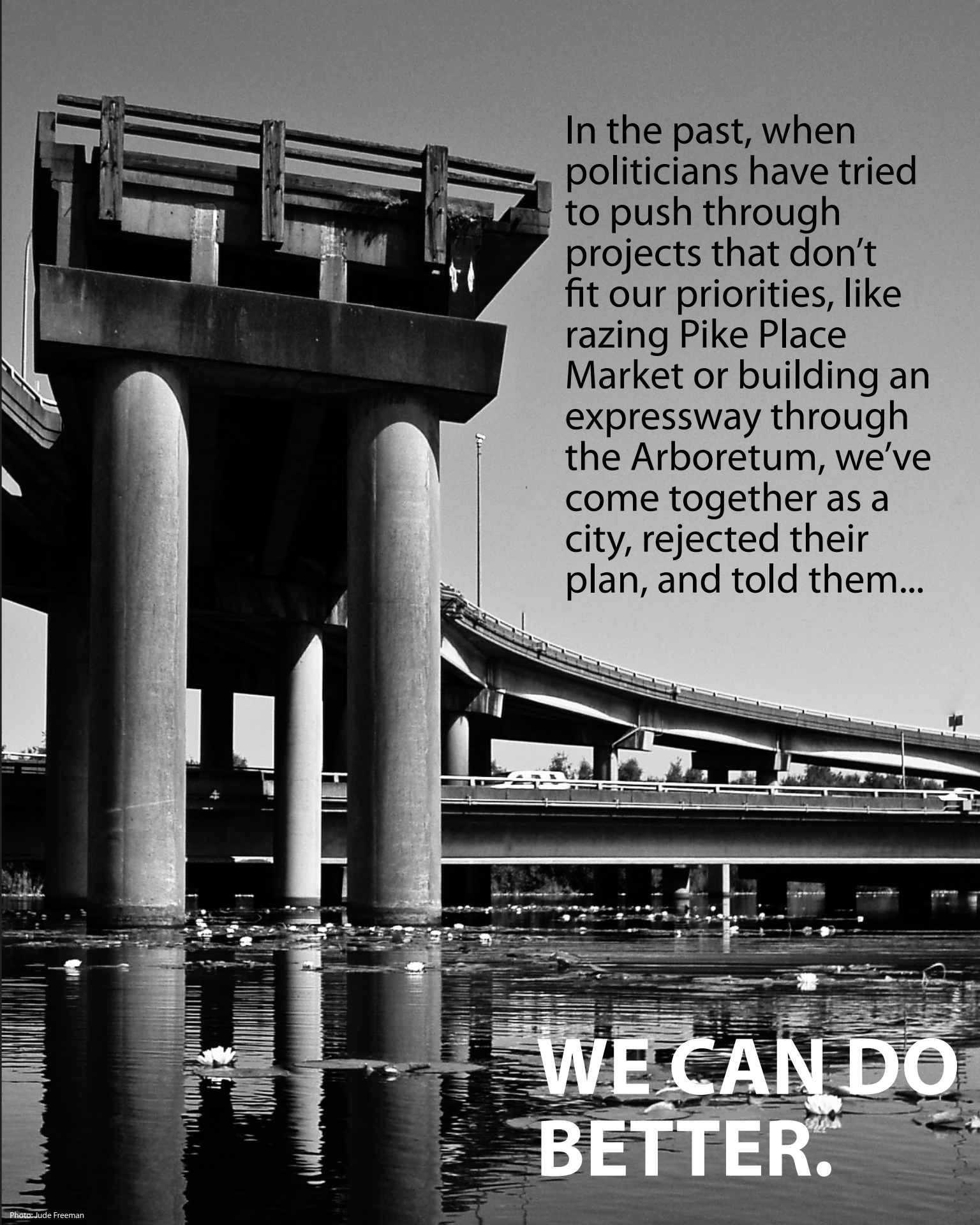
Photo: Michael Righi



Photo: Seattle Rex



Photo: Oran Viriyincy



In the past, when politicians have tried to push through projects that don't fit our priorities, like razing Pike Place Market or building an expressway through the Arboretum, we've come together as a city, rejected their plan, and told them...

**WE CAN DO
BETTER.**

WHAT IS REFERENDUM 1?

Referendum 1 is your chance to tell politicians to reject the tolled tunnel plan to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

In 2009, politicians cut a risky and expensive backroom deal to pursue a deep-bore tunnel under Seattle. During an economic downturn, they chose a Viaduct replacement option with no exits downtown and a price tag one billion dollars more than other solutions.

Since that day, they have refused to have a transparent conversation about the project or explain how they will address its practical and financial failures.

This spring, the City Council tried to proceed with the tunnel while refusing to answer basic questions about its failures. In response, Seattle citizens exercised their right to referendum by collecting sufficient signatures to hold a public vote on a project that we don't need, can't afford, and won't work.

That is Referendum 1.

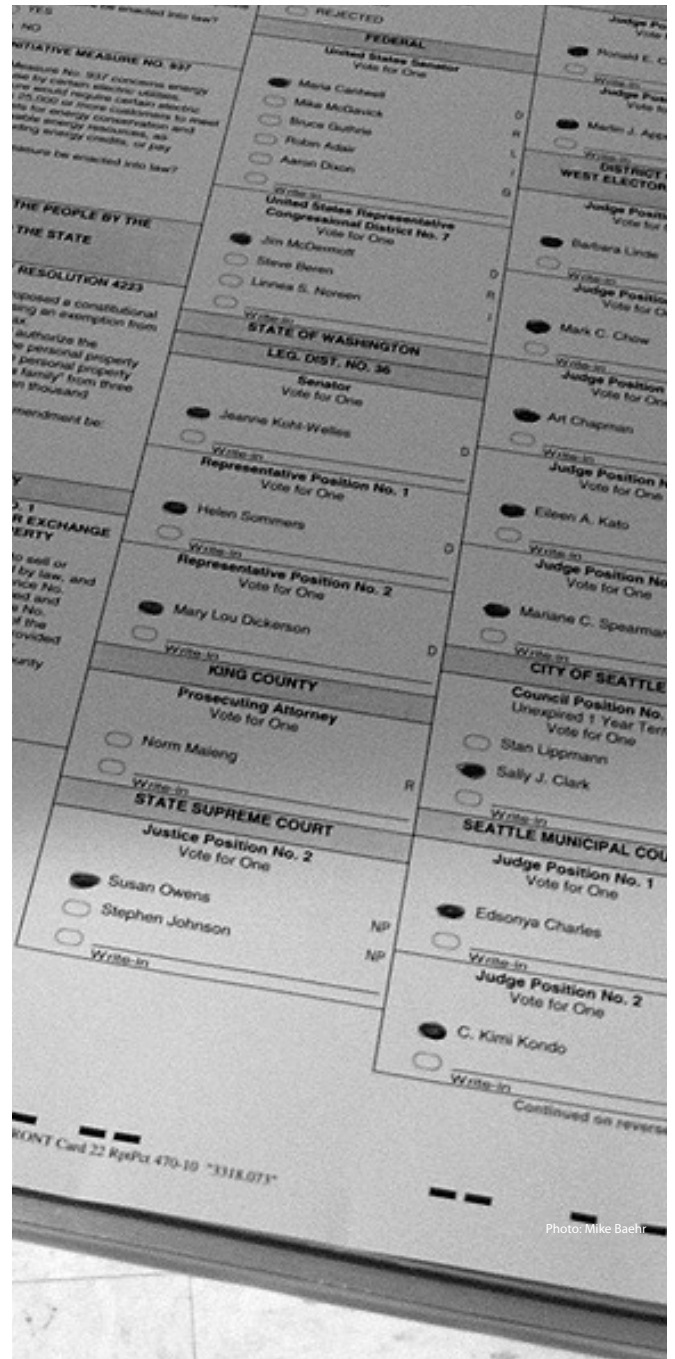


Photo: Mike Baehr

TAX INCREASES

The tunnel would result in significant tax increases to cover the remainder of the **\$700 million project funding deficit.**

(See WSDOT Project Funding Plan, Port and toll revenue not yet approved)

COST OVERRUNS

Seattle taxpayers will be stuck with the bill for cost overruns, thanks to a state law enacted by the governor and the legislature.

(See Washington State Senate Bill 5768, 2009-2010)

TOLLS

\$7-9 roundtrip tolls will be unaffordable to most, forcing tens of thousands of cars onto city streets.

(See WSDOT FEIS for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project (July 8, 2011) App'x C)

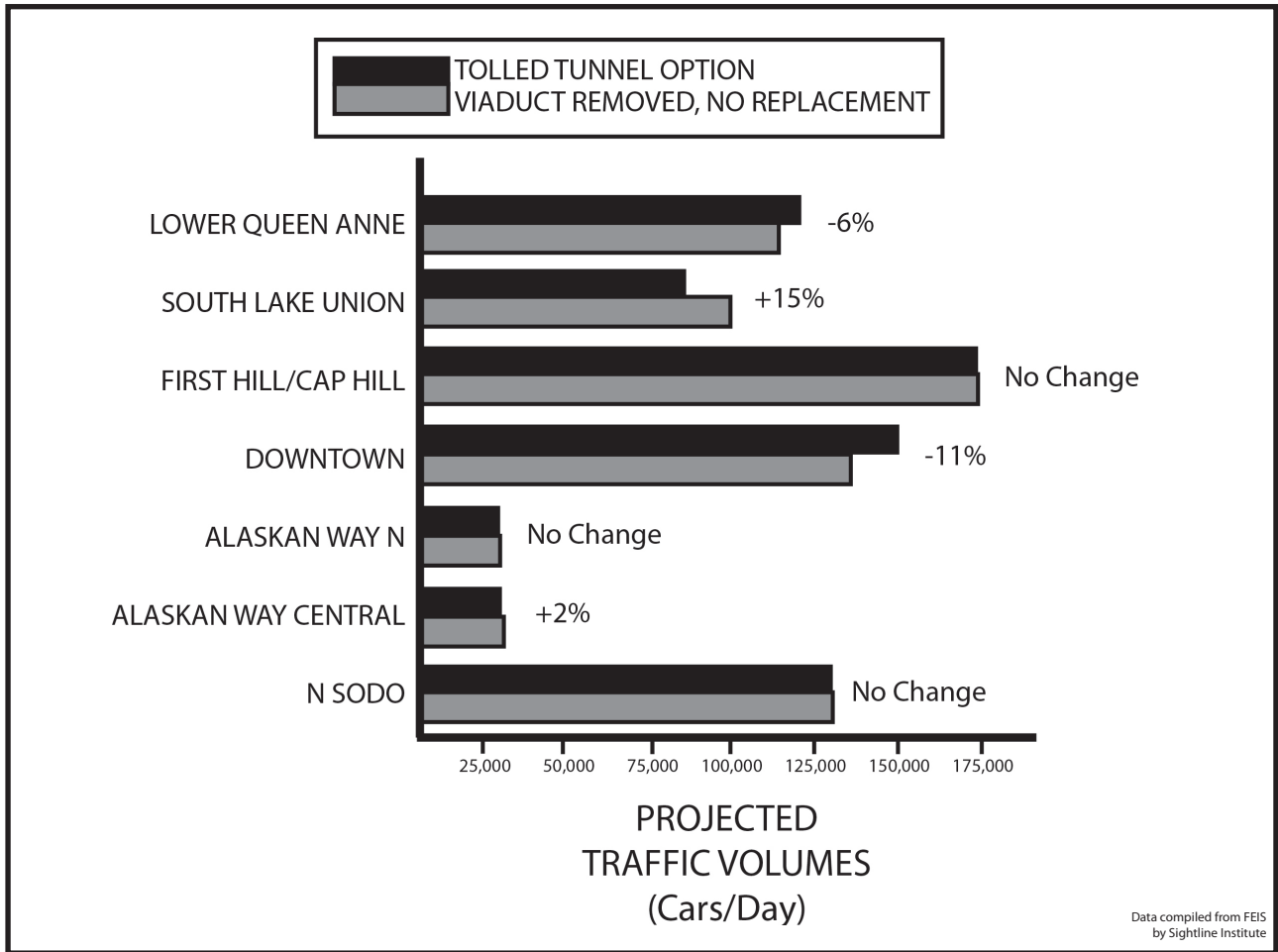
WORSE TRANSIT

The tunnel project has **NO money for improved transit** and would make transit service worse when West Seattle busses are stuck in traffic entering Pioneer Square.

(See WSDOT FEIS for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project (July 8, 2011) Chapter 5: "Permanent Effects," Section 12, Travel Speeds)

REJECTING A TUNNEL WE CAN'T AFFORD

THE TOLLED TUNNEL: TRAFFIC NO BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING



This graph shows that the State expects the tolled tunnel to create the same overall congestion on our city streets as if the Viaduct came down today and we did nothing to replace it.

The tolled tunnel is a bypass highway, so it won't help you get downtown to work, shop, or do business.

In fact, congestion will be no better when you come to the city. With tolls, just one third of cars currently on the Viaduct will use the tunnel and the other tens of thousands will divert onto city streets.

Simply put, this \$4.2 billion tunnel plan doesn't help solve our transportation problems.



Seattle deserves a solution for replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct that we can afford, makes it easier to get around, improves transit service, and doesn't threaten our other, more important priorities.

Instead of arguing the tolled tunnel's merits, or tackling the project's many failures, tunnel backers simply say we're too far down the road to reconsider. They say we don't have time to answer basic questions like how we are going to pay for it.

Seattle, we can do better than this.

Your vote to Reject Referendum 1 is the most important step towards a better solution.

REJECT REFERENDUM 1

REJECT THE TUNNEL

**PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR
BALLOTS BY AUG 16**

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**REJECT
REFERENDUM 1
REJECT THE TUNNEL**