

Purpose

## ALASKAN WAY SEAWALL Feasibility Study

This group of web sites provides information on the Corps of Engineers, Seattle District's feasibility study of the Alaskan Way Seawall.

The Alaskan Way Seawall provides erosion and storm damage protection for the City of Seattle's Elliott Bay waterfront. The seawall protects a highly developed portion of the city that includes major transportation corridors, Port of Seattle facilities, and major utilities serving much of downtown Seattle. The seawall is an aging structure constructed out of wooden platforms, steel sheet piling, concrete and fill. The seawall has suffered significant damage over the years through a combination of erosion and material decomposition. Increasing evidence indicates that large portions of the seawall may not be able to withstand any further deterioration or another large earthquake. The costs to repair damage due to a catastrophic seawall failure would likely be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The structural integrity of the State Route 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct is dependant on the seawall. The Washington State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and City of Seattle have included the replacement of the seawall in their plans to replace the [Alaskan Way Viaduct](#). The Corps is partnering with a project already in progress.

The Corps' feasibility study will result in a recommendation to Congress regarding whether an Alaskan Way Seawall project should be authorized under the Corps' storm damage reduction authority and, if so, how much of the cost of the seawall rehabilitation effort could be funded by the Corps.

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