

**PRESS RELEASE: February 5, 2019**

## **With Viadom over, will Seattle policy-makers draw the right lessons?**

The closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct was hyped as a potential traffic disaster that Seattle would have to endure for three weeks. Instead, we saw more people on transit and bikes, and a blessedly quiet downtown.

Today, the [MASS Coalition](#) released [a report](#) that draws lessons from the past three weeks. "Viadom turned out to be a wildly successful experiment in how to reduce emissions, improve mobility, and better our quality of life," the report states. "Understanding why Viadom didn't happen can help us make future transportation policy decisions with equally happy results."

### **QUOTES:**

"Viadom proved the people of Seattle are ready to tackle the climate crisis, including what needs to happen most: change the way they get around our city. We hope that the mayor and the City Council will follow the public's lead and help make this shift permanent. The climate crisis is here and we don't have a moment to lose," said **Rebecca Monteleone, chair of the Sierra Club's Seattle group**.

"Seattle Neighborhood Greenways applauds the record breaking number of people who walked or biked to work in January. And thanks to those of you who shared your experiences with the hashtag #MyCommuteWasAwesome on social media. We hope the Mayor will make it a top priority to keep our sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike routes safe and convenient so that more people continue to walk and bike to work" said **Gordon Padelford, Executive Director of Seattle Neighborhood Greenways**.

"The Viadom-that-wasn't sent a clear message. Invest in safer, greener, and more efficient transportation options and people will not only use them, but are happy to make the change," said **Ken Anderson, Political Director for Seattle Subway**. "The stubborn assumption that Seattle commuters depend on cars to get to work simply isn't true, as workers across the region proved this past month."

"Preceding the Seattle Squeeze, our leaders provided some additional transportation infrastructure in the form of added buses, water taxis, and bus lanes, and prevailed on people to do the right thing. The response was great, with bike counters up, water taxi use tripling, and more people on buses. This gives me hope that the Mayor's office, SDOT, and Metro can bravely lead to build and also promote the transit, bike lanes, and pedestrian/rolling infrastructure that will let us all get to work without high-carbon commutes," said **Alice Lockhart, with 350 Seattle's transportation team**.

“Viadom’ is over but the Seattle Squeeze is not. We hope the experience of these three weeks will embolden Mayor Durkan and SDOT to move forward with dramatic improvements to transit, biking, walking and rolling infrastructure, as recommended by the MASS Coalition,” said **Katie Wilson, General Secretary of the Transit Riders Union**. “Build it and they will come’—all the evidence points in this direction.”

*MASS (Move All Seattle Sustainably) includes: 350 Seattle, 500 Women Scientists Seattle, Cascade Bicycle Club, Disability Rights Washington, Rooted in Rights, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, Seattle Subway, Seattle Transit Blog, Sierra Club Seattle Group, The Urbanist, and Transit Riders Union.*

***[masscoalition.org](http://masscoalition.org)***