



## Friends of Two-Way Mercer

# The Problem

## Currently, Mercer:

- Is a temporary fix put in place 40 years ago
- Is confusing, dangerous and causes drivers to zigzag to reach destination
- Carries 80,000 vehicles a day  
(for comparison Alaskan Way Viaduct carries 110,000)
- Backs up during peak commutes
- Does not accommodate transit, bicycles and pedestrians
- Divides neighborhoods



# The Problem

**Will get worse if we don't do something**

## **More people**

- Regional population growth
- City population growth
- Runs through two growing urban centers — South Lake Union and Queen Anne/Uptown

## **Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement**

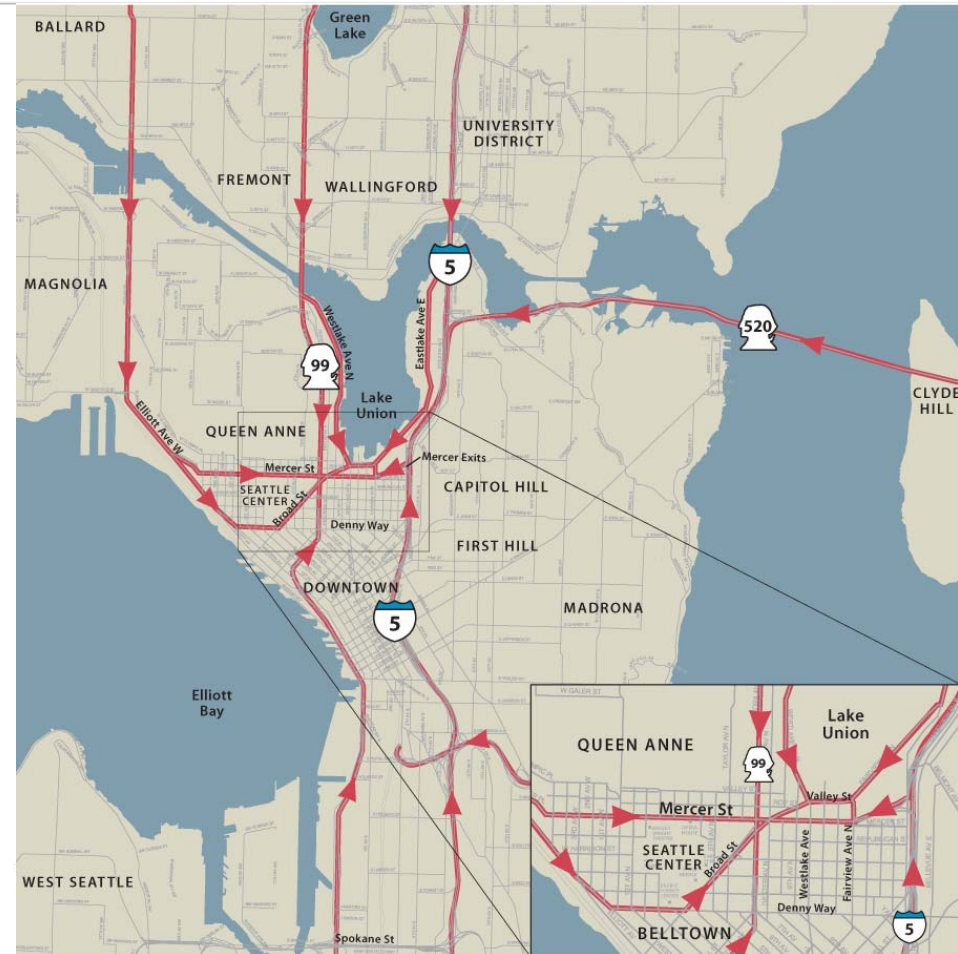
- South-bound vehicles **MUST** exit Aurora near Mercer Street during construction

**More people + detours  
= more cars**

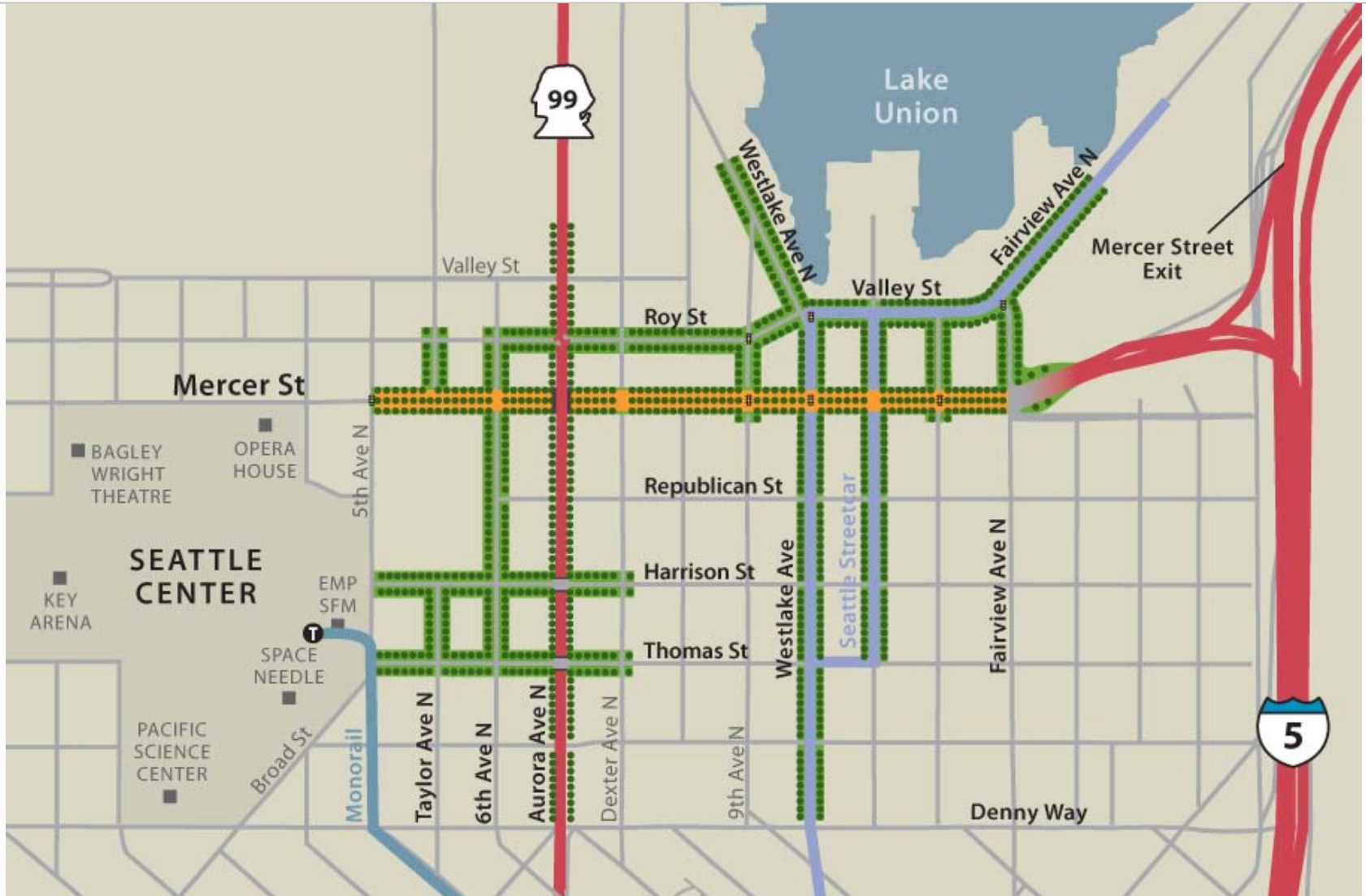


# Why Mercer is Important

- Connects I-5, Aurora/99 and 520
- Connects region to regional resources like Seattle Center and Port of Seattle
- Whenever Mercer backs up, people feel it for miles.



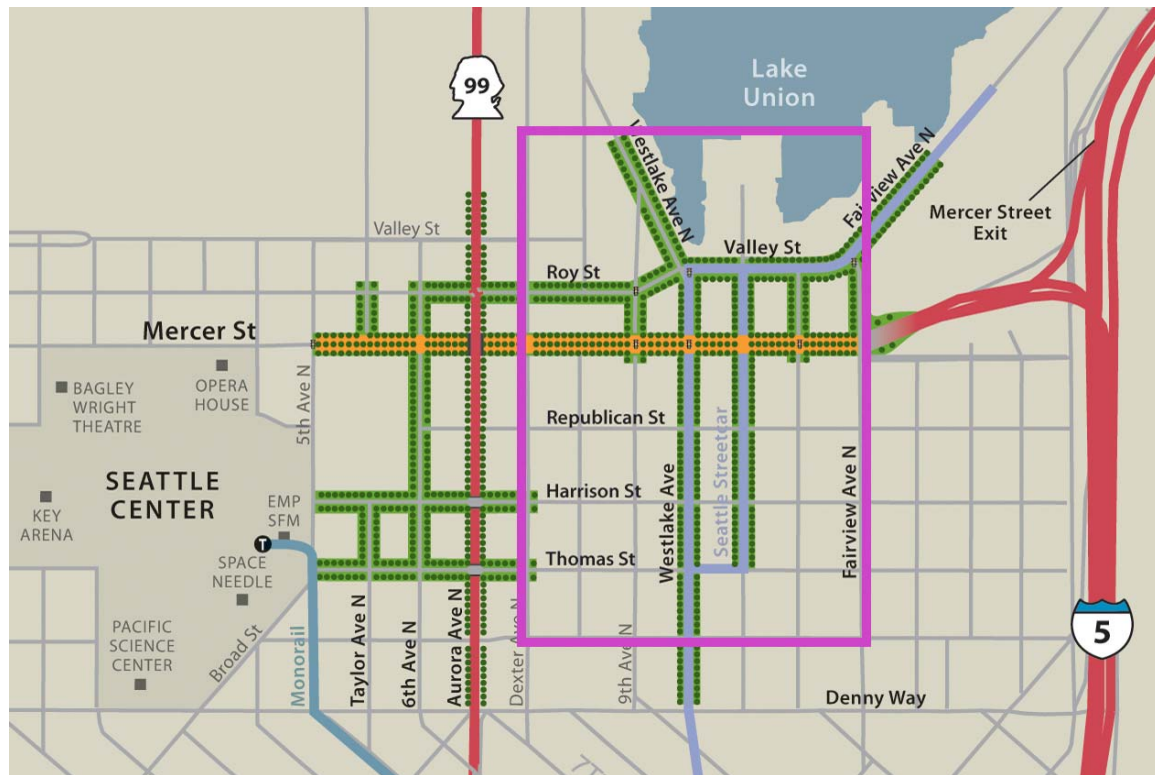
# The Solution



# The Solution

## Two-way Mercer Street

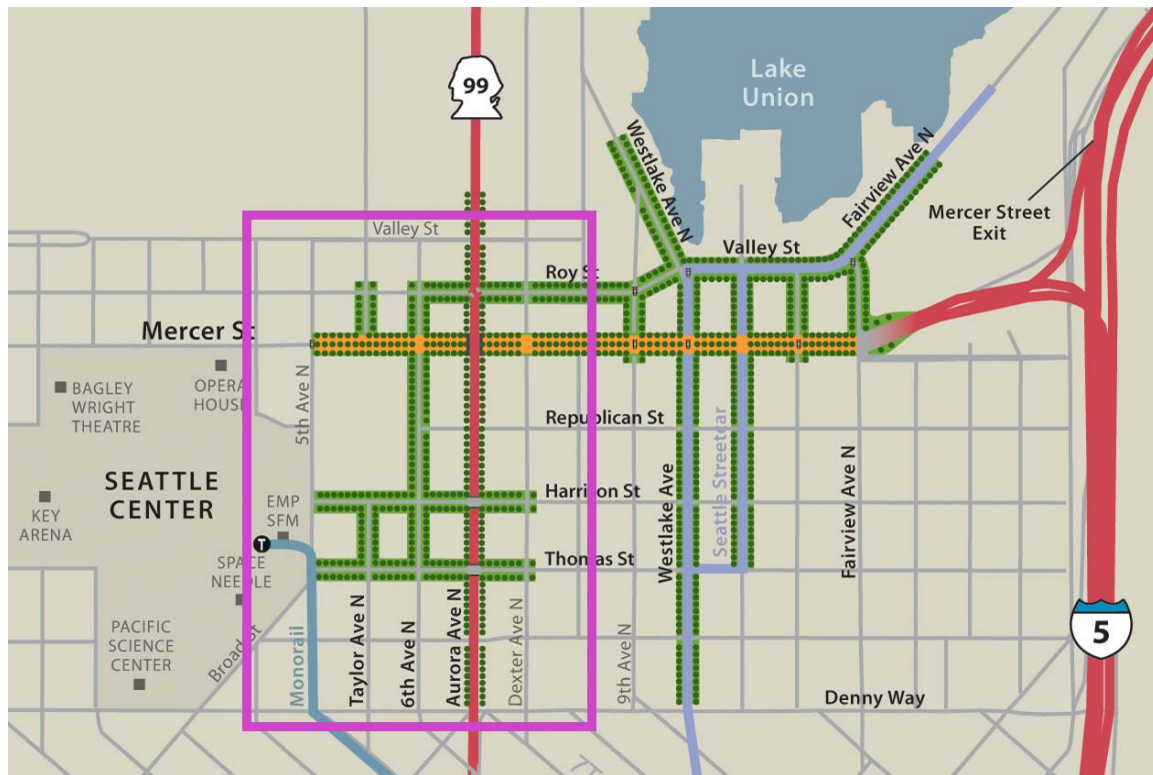
- Seattle Dept. of Transportation (SDOT) project between Fairview and Dexter
- 3 lanes each direction (just as it is today)
- Wide sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians and bicycles
- Bicycle lanes on narrowed Valley St.
- Can accommodate transit



# The Solution

## Lowered Aurora

- Washington Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) project.
- Continues 2 Way Mercer from Dexter to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Lowers Aurora north of Battery Street Tunnel — allows for reconnection of Thomas and Harrison Streets.



# The Solution

## **Combined, the projects:**

- Create “straight shot” from I-5 to Seattle Center
- Accommodate cars, freight, transit, bicycles and pedestrians
- Add two more east-west connections at Thomas and Harrison
- Improve flow of traffic
- Are safer than current condition
- Reconnect neighborhoods
- Promote easier access to Capitol Hill, South Lake Union, Queen Anne, Fremont, Ballard and Magnolia

# Do It Today

- Put two-way Mercer in place to handle vehicles displaced by Viaduct construction or an emergency
  - It is SDOT's goal to complete construction of the Mercer Corridor Project prior to major construction for the Alaskan Way Tunnel. The Mercer Corridor will be part of an alternative route for those heading to Seattle Center, Queen Anne, and other neighborhoods that may now use the Alaskan Way Viaduct, and will improve westbound access from I-5 to those areas.
- Provide easy, convenient and safe connections to Seattle Center and the new South Lake Union Park with lowered Aurora and reconnected Harris and Thomas Streets.



# Next Steps For 2-Way Mercer

## **April 2006**

- City Council approves funding to complete environmental analysis and complete design

## **Mid 2006**

- Draft environmental assessment out for review and comment

## **Fall 2006**

- Complete Environmental Assessment

## **2007**

- Regional vote to fund 2-Way Mercer and lowered Aurora

## **2008**

- Complete design
- Construction begins

## **2010**

- Construction complete

# Who Supports

## **Companies and Organizations**

Association of General Contractors

Cascade Bicycle Club

Center for Wooden Boats

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

PEMCO

People for Puget Sound

Seattle King County Building Trades Council

Seattle Parks Foundation

United Indians of All Tribes

Vulcan Inc.

Washington Conservation Voters

# Who Supports

## Individuals

Zuned Ali • Kimberly Bowen • Jim Bricker • Melissa Cadd • Peter Coates • John Coney • Karen Daubert • Jerry Dinndorf • Chris Elwell • Tom English • Michael Ford • Bob Grossman • Bruce Gryniewski • Jeff Hanson • Ada Healey • David Hiller • Ashley Hulseley • Jonathan Ives • Michael Jerrett • Stephanie Innis-Frans • Jim Kelley • Phil Lane Jr. • Craig Maturi • Kent McKinney • Craig Montgomery • Jim Mueller • Joe Nabbefeld • Tina Podlodoski • Holly Redell • Jeff Riddell • John Stewart • Dick Wagner • Larry Woodbury

*The list is growing every day!*

# How To Get Involved

- Endorse the proposal and add your name to the growing list of supporters
- Invite 2-Way Mercer Advocacy Group to your company or organization
- Tell your friends, neighbors, colleagues and co-workers about 2-way Mercer
- Send an e-mail to [info@fixmercermess.org](mailto:info@fixmercermess.org) to join the group