Converting Road Tunnels to Rail An Evaluation of Cost-Effective Fire Life Safety Design

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Presentation Take-Aways

- 1. Take time to understand the existing fire life safety systems in the Road Tunnel
- 2. Look at cost savings opportunities and alternatives <u>early</u>
- 3. Recognize key factors affecting emergency ventilation and egress
- 4. Consider mitigating hazards with <u>train</u> control system protections

The Retrofit Project: "Know where you're Going"

Step 1

Confirm the Obvious

Step 2

Identify Cost
Saving
Alternatives

Step 3

Evaluate Methodically

Step 4

Present, Present Present

Step 5

Confirm the Agreement

Why Convert Road Tunnel to Rail?

Limited Available Right of Way



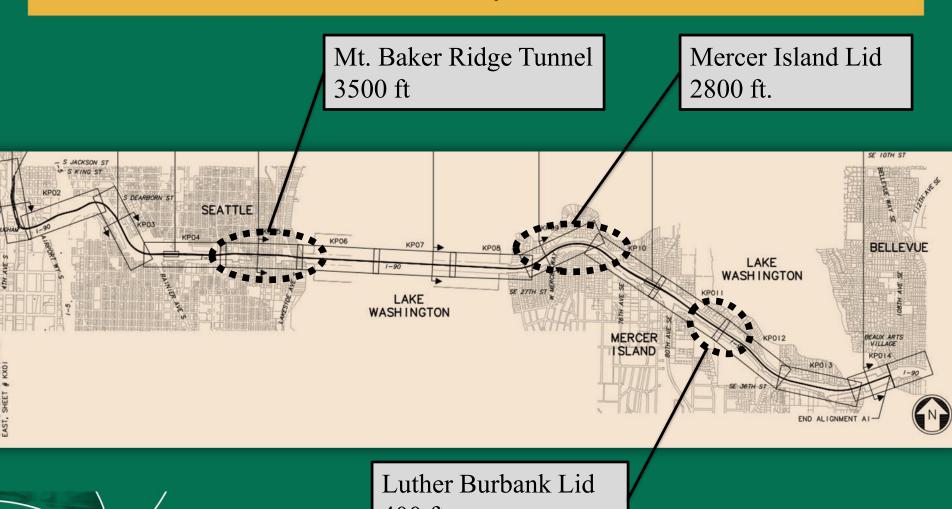
Transit Route in median of congested interstate



LRT across existing floating bridge



Converting I-90 Road Tunnels to Rail Seattle, WA

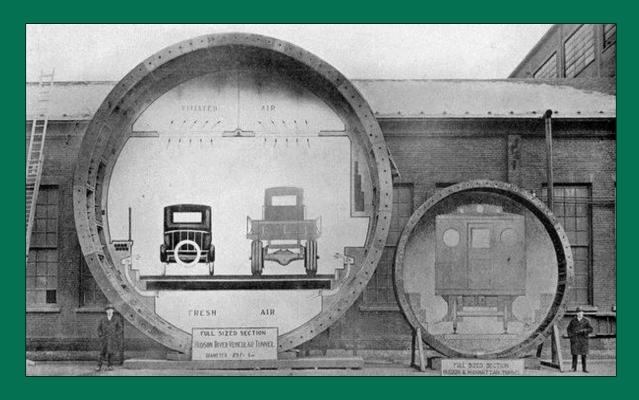


400 ft.

Existing Road Tunnel FLS Systems

- Tunnel Ventilation
 - Fully Transverse Systems, Longitudinal Systems
- Tunnel Egress
 - Walkways, Utilidor, Adjacent roadway tunnels
- Tunnel Fire Protection Systems
 - Deluge Systems, Hydrants, Standpipes

Transverse vs. Longitudinal Ventilation

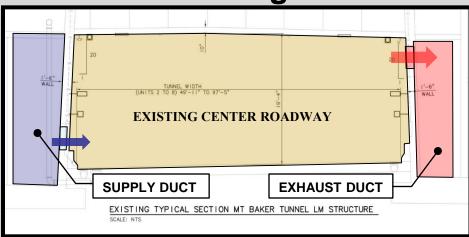


Full-scale Model Section of the 1927 Holland Tunnel in New York



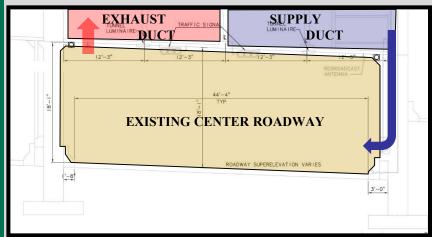
Existing Road Tunnel Ventilation Systems

Mount Baker Ridge



- Ducts along sides of Roadway
- (3) Supply Fans
- (3) Exhaust Fans 230kcfm/ea

Mercer Island Lid

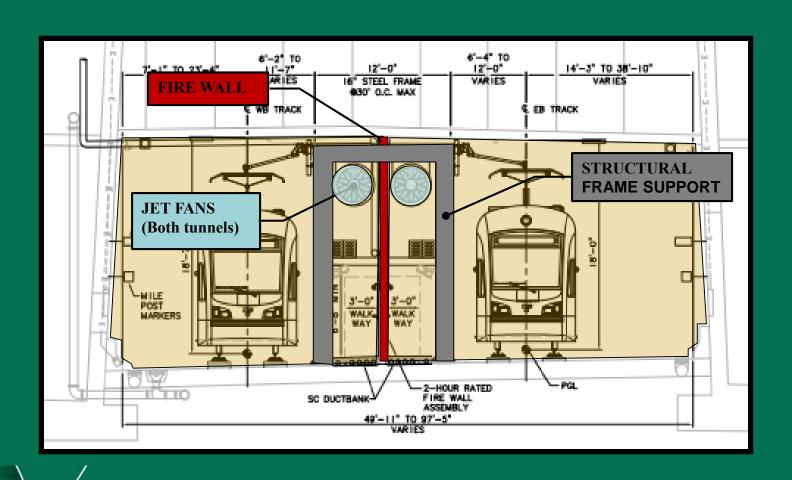


- Ducts above Roadway
- (3) Supply Fans
- (3) Exhaust Fans 189kcfm/ea

Concept Design Emergency Ventilation and Egress

- Stakeholders
 - Tunnel owner, Train operator, Fire Departments
- Structural Limitations
 - Center dividing wall construction and support
 - Jet fan support
- Prescriptive approach to Egress
 - Single walkway per tunnel
 - Cross-passage doors 800 feet o.c.

EXAMPLE: Cost Savings EvaluationFire Wall and Support Frame \$18M



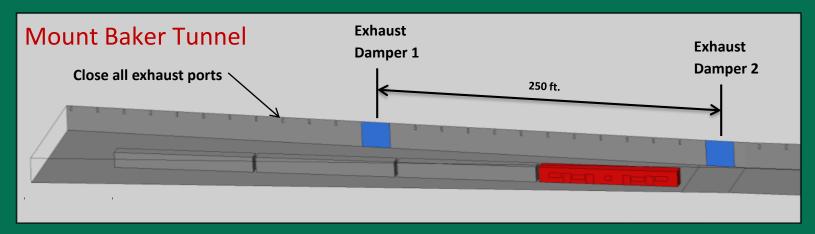
Factors Affecting Road Tunnel Ventilation

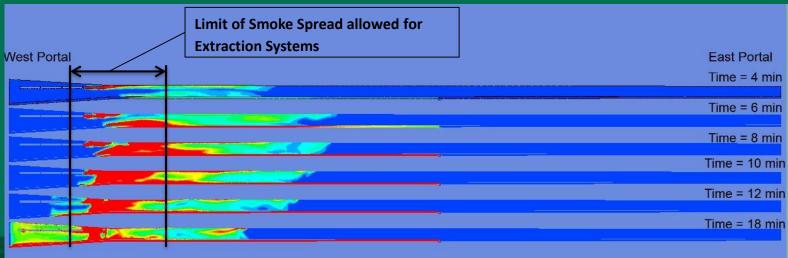
Tunnel Cross-Section & Width

Portal Wind Pressure

Ventilation System Capacity

Investigating Reuse of Transverse Ventilation System

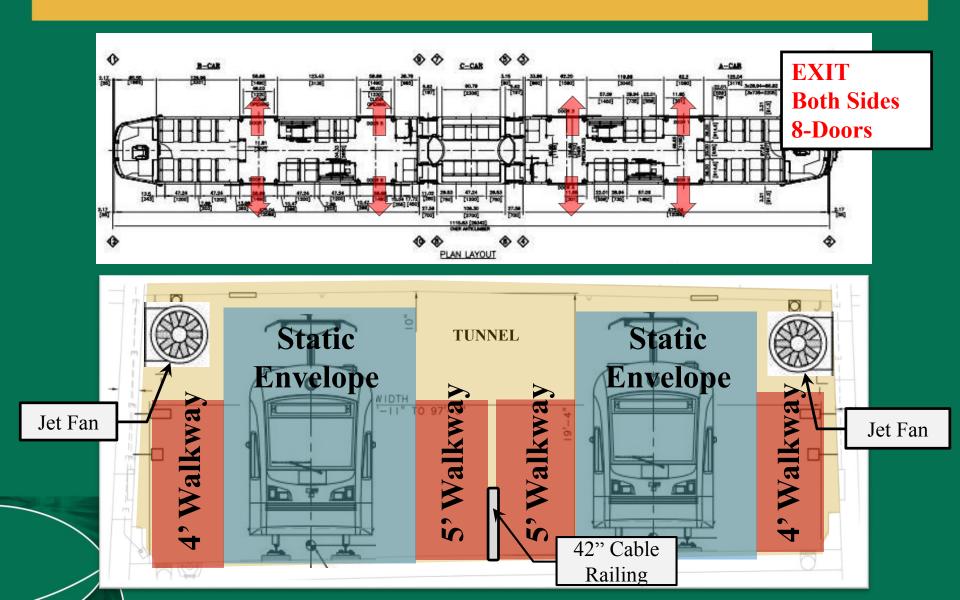




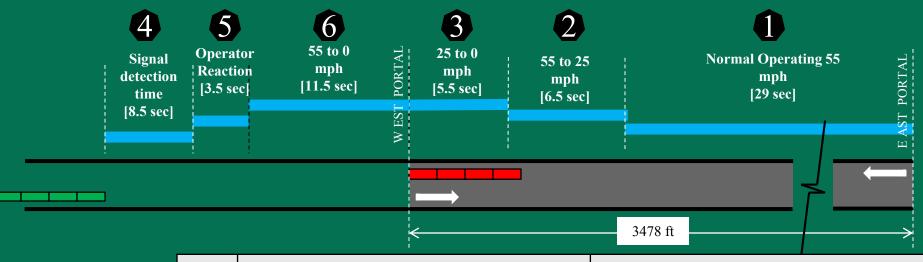
Final Design Emergency Tunnel Ventilation and Egress

- Cost Savings: Elimination of Center Dividing Wall
- Evaluation of Existing Extraction Ventilation
 System and New Longitudinal System
- Performance-based Egress Analysis
- Hazard Analysis and Mitigation

Egress Opportunity in Wide Road Tunnel



Train Control System Hazard Mitigation



	Mt. Baker Tunnel		Mercer Island Tunnel	
	Description	Tunnel Time elapsed, [s]		Tunnel Time elapsed, [s]
0	Incident Train enters tunnel at 55 mph	29	Incident train enters tunnel at 45 mph	29
2	55 to 25 mph	6.5	45 to 25 mph	4.5
3	25 to 0 mph	5.5	25 to 0 mph	5.5
4	Signal detection (minus 5.5 s)	8.5	Signal detection (minus 5.5 s)	8.5
6	Non-Incident train reaction	3.5	Non-Incident train reaction	3.5
6	Non-incident train brakes to stop	11.5	Non-incident train brakes to stop	11.5
	Total time needed to Stop Non-Incident train outside tunnel	64.5	Total time needed to Stop Non-Incident train outside tunnel	62.5

Signal System Hazard Mitigation

- <u>Automatic Detection</u> of incident train via track circuit timers
- <u>Target Detection Time</u> (Tid) of 14seconds for trains travelling below 25mph
- <u>Automatic Response</u> by ATP speed commands and automatic braking

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Tunnel Electrical Systems





Tunnel Electrical Systems Take-Aways

- 1. Electrical system to support tunnel fire life-safety
 - Emergency Ventilation
 - Lighting
 - Standpipe Control
- 2. Combine technical advantages with value engineering
- 3. Engage and include agency maintenance staff

Factors Affecting Tunnel Electrical Systems

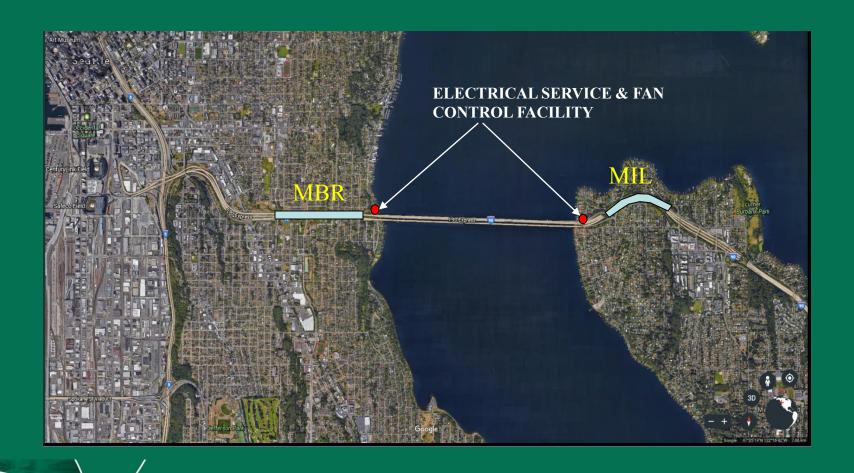
Electrical Service

Voltage / Motor Starting

Emergency Power

Fire Rating / Emergency Circuits

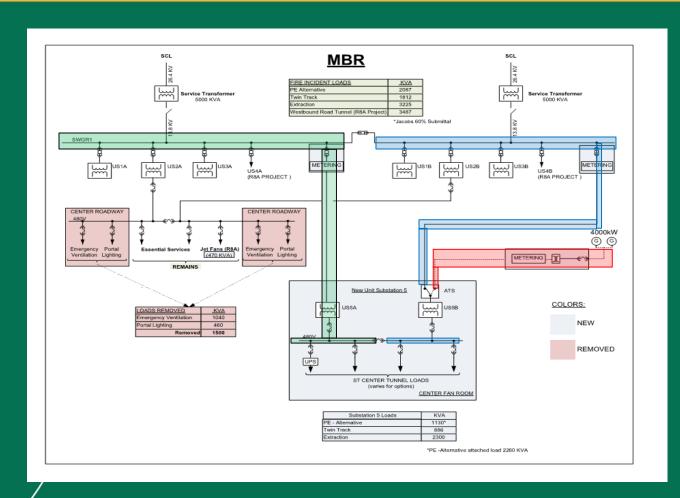
Electrical – Preliminary Engineering Documents



Electrical - Value Engineering

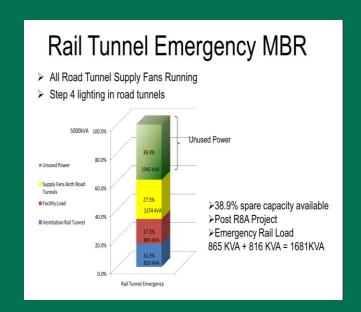


Electrical – WSP Recommendations

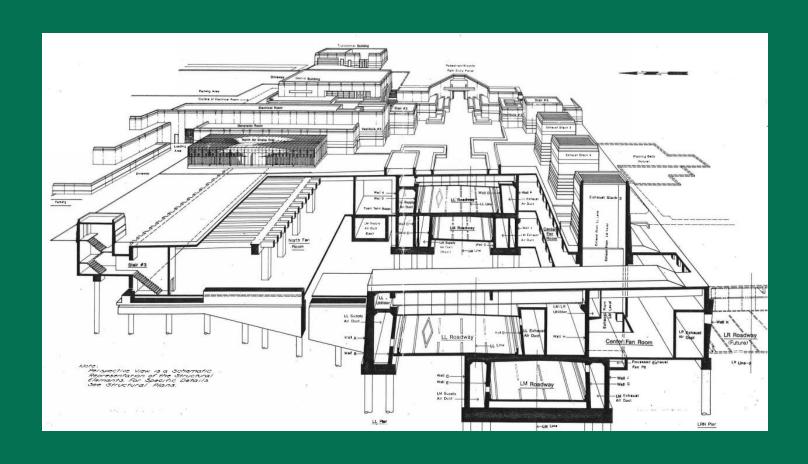


Electrical Power Capacity Studies

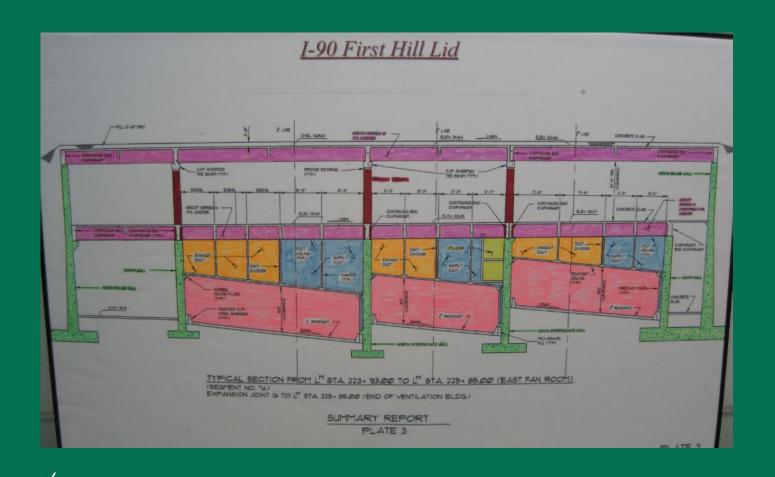
- Establish key tunnel operating parameters-"Mutually exclusive incidents"
- Close adjacent tunnels during emergency
- Evaluate power demand vs available power



MBR Tunnel - Existing Facilities

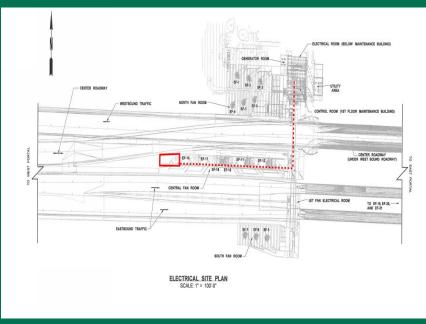


MIL - Existing Facilities



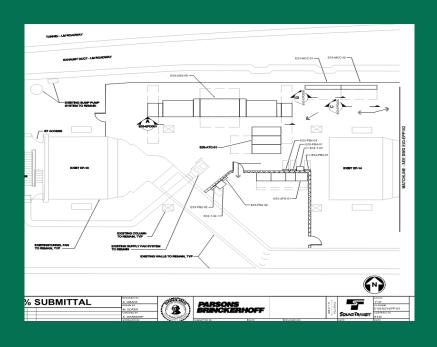
MBR - ST Electrical Room







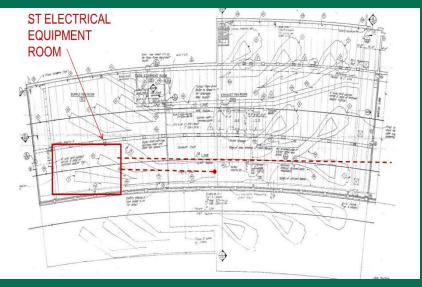
MBR - ST Electrical Room





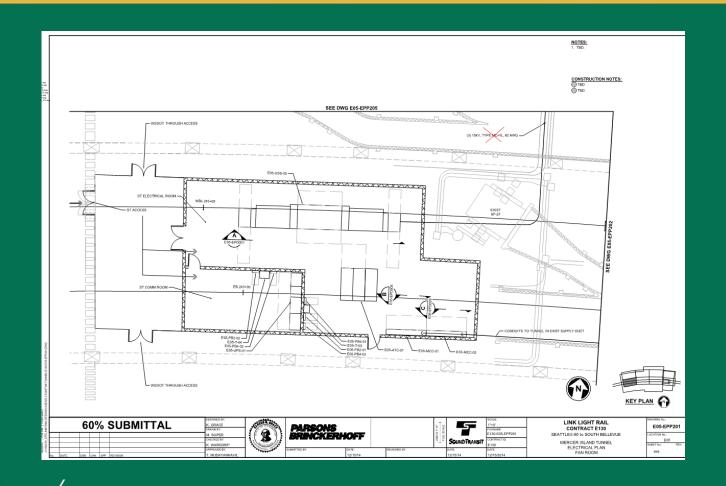
MIL - ST Electrical Room



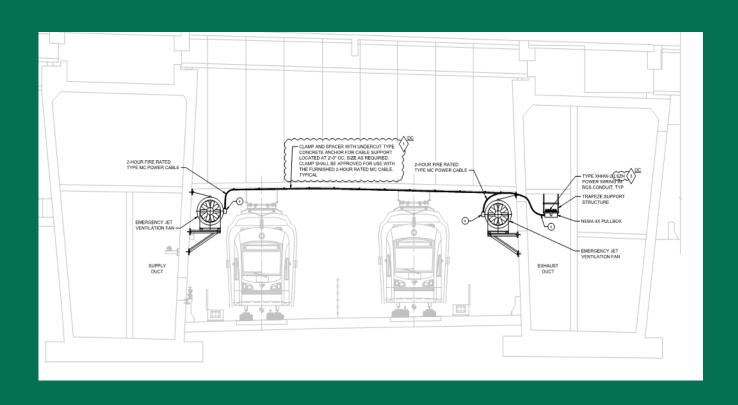




MIL - ST Electrical Room



MBR - Fire Rated Wiring



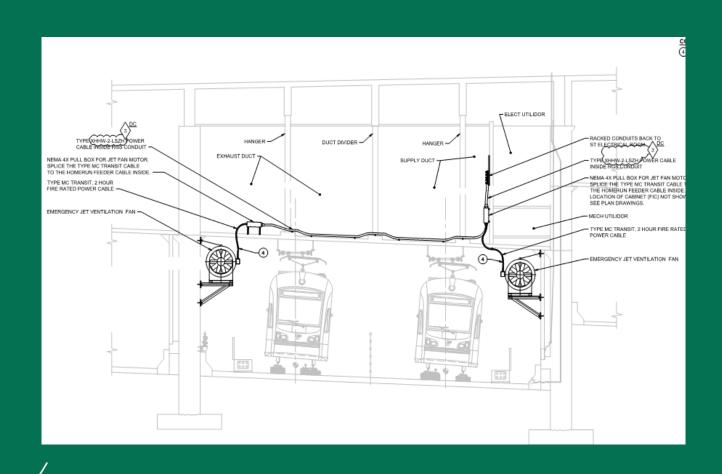
MBR - Fire Rated Wiring







MIL - Fire Rated Wiring



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Questions?