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Crews install 18 girders for new Elliott Way bridge near Pike Place

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

On Tuesday, Waterfront Seattle's team finished placing 18 girders over the BNSF Railway tracks just northwest of and below the Pike Place Market's MarketFront building. This operation is one of the first major structural and visible milestones toward building the bridge for the new Elliott Way, according to Waterfront Seattle.

“We’ve been steadily working our way toward this moment since we began construction of the new Alaskan Way/Elliott Way roadway last fall and are incredibly excited and proud of the progress we have made to date,” said Angela Brady, deputy director of the Office the Waterfront and Civic Projects, in a news release.



Photo from city of Seattle/Granite Construction [\[enlarge\]](#)

The girders were installed during six-hour windows at night, when train traffic was low.

Those 18 concrete beams vary from 63 to 150 feet long and weigh up to 79 tons each. Crews placed the girders over several nights, within six-hour windows when few trains were passing below. Prior to this, workers installed about 100 soldier piles to support a retaining wall that is part of the new corridor.

Granite Construction is the contractor building the new Elliott Way, which wraps around the back of the Waterfront Landings condominiums and climbs to near Lenora Street before connecting into an existing couplet of Elliott and Western Avenue at Bell Street.

When it opens in about two years, the new road will be a key connection between the waterfront and Belltown for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. There will be sidewalks, as well as bike lanes, on either side of the roadway.

Farther south, Gary Merlino Construction continues to build the new Alaskan Way, and the city anticipates shifting traffic onto the new lanes south of Columbia Street later this year.

All of this work is part of the larger \$728 million Waterfront Seattle program that is rebuilding the waterfront. Upcoming improvements will include a park promenade along the water, a new park at Pier 58, an elevated connection from Pike Place Market to the waterfront, and improvements to key east-west connections between downtown neighborhoods and Elliott Bay. A new park at Pier 62 opened last month.