



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Pike Place Market Western Ave. Hillclimb reopens today Phase-I of publicly funded renovation complete Phase II begins within days

SEATTLE – After being closed for the last 14 months, the Western Ave. Hillclimb at Pike Place Market reopened this morning, marking the completion of Phase I of the three-phase renovation project taking place at Seattle’s historic public market.

“We are very proud of the fact that Phase I of the Market’s renovation project is on time and on budget,” said James Haydu, Director of Communications at the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority. Phase I costs total \$20 million dollars and the entire cost of renovation will be \$68.6 million dollars.

The first phase of the project was centered on excavating the Western Avenue Hillclimb and building a central plant underground that houses an electrical vault that has the capacity to serve the Market and its needs today as well as into the future. Also, the staircase on the Hillclimb has been redesigned and rebuilt and a new elevator has been added in order to accommodate pedestrian traffic into the Market from the western façade. “In planning Phase I of the project we knew we had practical needs – and those were ensuring that the mechanical, electrical, heating, cooling and ventilation infrastructure was updated to meet the heavy demands placed on the Market and its buildings,” Haydu said. “And, we knew we had the opportunity with Phase I to make the Market as accessible as possible from Western Avenue”.

Phase II of the Market’s renovation project begins with a soft start next week when a sizeable tower of scaffolding is erected on Pike Place between the Corner Market and the Triangle Building. It will measure three stories tall, approximately 50 feet long and 12 feet wide. The scaffolding will be used move equipment in and out of the Sanitary Market building where work will begin on updating the infrastructure of the residential tenant apartments in that building.

Market management says that Phase II will be the most impactful of the entire renovation project due to major seismic upgrades being made in the Corner and Sanitary Markets and

Triangle Building, as well as the addition of an elevator in the Corner Market. Approximately 25-30 commercial tenants will be relocated and at least two will not return to the Market.

“We are working diligently with these tenants to try and keep them here in the Market during Phase II and in operation. That is our goal,” concluded Haydu. “But there is no way to escape the fact that renovation is now moving into our living room – and soon.”
Phase II work is anticipated to last one year.

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