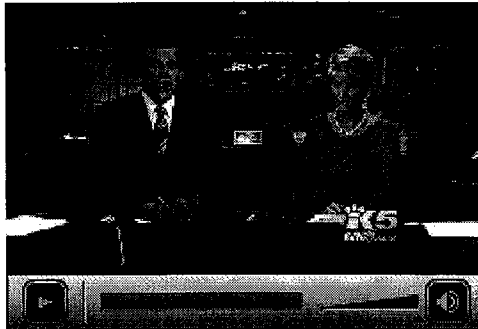


Seattle's South Park Bridge falling apart

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By LINDA BRILL / KING 5 News



Video: South Park Bridge falling apart

[Larger screen](#) [E-mail this clip](#)

SEATTLE – After 78 years serving South Seattle well, the South Park Bridge is falling apart.

While many people want the important industrial link rebuilt, King County says it just doesn't have the \$150 million to build a new bridge.

The bridge is considered the least stable in King County, even worse than the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

"It's vulnerable. It serves this community and all the communities around us," said Dagmar Cronn, South Park Neighborhood Association.

A lot is riding on the South Park Bridge. The span over the Duwamish River carries 18,000 cars and 2,600 trucks a day, linking Boeing's industrial area to the South Park community.

But the bridge is crumbling. The pilings are in sand and the concrete is falling apart.

"The concrete has a chemical reaction going on, so it's deteriorating the concrete internally," said Rick Brater, King County Roads Division.

If the bridge closes, traffic will divert to the First Avenue Bridge, potentially turning that into a parking lot.

The South Park Bridge is scheduled to be closed in two years. The county is trying to put together some kind of a funding package, which includes industry money. In the meantime, the county is going ahead with the engineering and design work in case the money comes through.