

Engineering Department Traffic Engineering Subject Files, 1926-1988

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Engineering Dept.
Title	Engineering Department Traffic Engineering Subject Files
Dates	1926-1988 (inclusive) 1926 1988
Quantity	5.0 cubic feet, (13 boxes)
Collection Number	2609-01
Summary	Material relating to traffic control and transportation planning in Seattle.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Note

Seattle traffic issues fell under the jurisdiction of the Department of Streets and Sewers during the first three decades of the 20th Century. With the recognition of growing traffic engineering needs, the Office of Traffic Engineer was established within the Department in 1930. The Department of Streets and Sewers was abolished by City Charter Amendment in 1936 and most of its functions absorbed by the Engineering Department. The Office of the Traffic Engineer became a division within the Department. When the functions of the Engineering Department were reorganized in 1997, the traffic engineering and transportation functions were consolidated in the newly formed Seattle Transportation Department.

Content Description

Memoranda, correspondence, meeting minutes, maps, blueprints, newspaper clippings and presentational material concerning various traffic control topics and traffic and transportation planning. General topics include traffic planning, street closures, civil defense, traffic safety, and traffic control; specific subjects include Central Business District Exclusive Bus Lanes, METRO, the Seattle Transit

System, New Deal traffic projects, and World War II traffic routing. The bulk of the material dates from the New Deal and World War II periods.

A large portion of the series encompasses the records of J.W.A. "Arch" Bollong who served as Traffic Engineer from 1930 to 1952. The records reflect major street and bridge construction projects during that period including Alaskan Way, Aurora Avenue, the Aurora Bridge, and traffic issues related to the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, Boeing Company expansion, and the Seattle Transit System. Traffic safety became a major concern as more and more automobiles were introduced to Seattle. Records include discussions of school crossing issues, activities of the Seattle Traffic and Safety Council, and local and national safety contests.

The largest body of records relate to Civil Defense, particularly to the location of air raid sirens and whistles, lighting regulations during blackouts, traffic and danger signals used during blackouts, and the creation of traffic routes during wartime. The latter included identifying routes through the city that would be used by the military in an emergency as well as the routing of normal traffic.

Most of the records that post-date Bollong's tenure as traffic engineer are related to the controversy around the proposed creation of exclusive bus lanes in the Central Business District in the mid-1970s.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Traffic Engineering Subject Files, Record Series 2609-01. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Traffic Engineering Subject Files, 1926-1988

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Administrative Survey Volume VI Engineering Department	1957
1/2	Alaskan Way - Correspondence	1931-1933
1/3	Alaskan Way - Correspondence	1934-1935
1/4	Alaskan Way - Correspondence	1936

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/5	Alaskan Way - Correspondence	1937-1938
1/6	Alaskan Way - Correspondence.	1939-1940
1/7	Alaskan Way - Maps and Drawings	1929-1937
1/8	Annual Inventory of Traffic Safety Activities - National Safety Council Contest	1951
1/9	Armory Way - Highway 99 By-Pass	1931-1939
1/10	Armory Way Map - Downtown By-Pass for Highway 99	1938
1/11	Arterial Highways	1928-1932
1/12	Arterial Highways in Seattle - Map	1930
1/13	Arterial Priority System	1965
1/14	Aurora Avenue Bridge	1930
1/15	Aurora Avenue	1931
1/16	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1932
1/17	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1933
1/18	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1934
1/19	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1936-1937
1/20	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1938-1939
1/21	Aurora Avenue and Bridge	1940-1944
1/22	Aurora Avenue - Maps	1930-1937
2/1	Aurora Avenue - Traffic Flow Maps	1929-1931
2/2	Aurora Avenue - Safety Zone Photographs	1930-1931
2/3	Aurora Avenue - Traffic Across Fremont Bridge	1926-1929

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/4	Bay Street Traffic Closure - Great Northern Railway Co.	1969
2/5	Blackout Program - Maps	1941
2/6	Blackout Program - Procedures and Instructions	1941
2/7	Blackout Program - Reference Material and National Publications	1942
2/8	Blackout Program - Test Blackout Night (March 7)	1941
2/9	Blackout Program - Traffic and Danger Signals	1941
2/10	Blackout Program - Traffic Signals (January-April)	1942
2/11	Blackout Program - Traffic Signals (May-December)	1942
2/12	Blackout Program - Traffic Signals and General Information	1943
2/13	Blackout Program - Traffic Signals	1944
2/14	Board of Public Works	1969-1970
2/15	Boeing Company - Correspondence	1939-1941
2/16	Boeing Company - Correspondence (December)	1941
2/17	Boeing Company - Correspondence	1942-1944
2/18	Boeing Plant - Maps	1940-1944
2/19	Bon Marché - Solutions for Traffic Control, Contest	1946
2/20	Bon Marche - Solution for Traffic Control, Contest Drawings	1946
2/21	Bus Line Warning Signs - Drawings.	1939
3/1	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (December)	1941
3/2	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (January)	1942
3/3	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (February)	1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/4	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (March)	1942
3/5	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (April)	1942
3/6	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (May-June)	1942
3/7	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (July)	1942
3/8	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (August)	1942
3/9	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (September)	1942
3/10	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens (October-December)	1942
3/11	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens	1943
3/12	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens	1944
3/13	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens	1950-1959
3/14	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens. Air Raid Siren Control Network (maps)	1942
3/15	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens. Auxiliary Air Raid Alarm Signals. (map)	1942
3/16	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens. Equipment and Installation Sketches	1941-1951
3/17	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens Equipment	1942-1945
3/18	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens Equipment	1946-1951
3/19	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, Location of Air Raid Sirens and Air Raid Warning Zones	1941-1942
3/20	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, Location of Air Raid Sirens. (Maps)	1941-1943
3/21	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, Location (Maps)	1951
3/22	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, Location of Air Raid Sirens, Whistles, and High Pressure Steam Plants (Maps)	1943

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/23	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, Location of fire Department Street Sirens (Maps)	1942
4/1	Civil Defense - Air Raid Sirens, 145 H.P. Siren Test (Map)	1942
4/2	Civil Defense - Lighting Control Measures Prior to Blackouts, Report.	1942
4/3	Civil Defense - Blackouts and Lighting Regulation (January-February)	1942
4/4	Civil Defense - Blackouts and Lighting Regulation (March-May)	1942
4/5	Civil Defense - Evacuation and Military Route Maps	1942
4/6	Civil Defense - Evacuation Planning	1942
4/7	Civil Defense - General Correspondence	1967-1972
4/8	Civil Defense - Organization	1941-1943
4/9	Civil Defense - Organization Charts	1942
4/10	Civil Defense - Publicity, Civilians for Defense Radio Script.	1942
4/11	Civil Defense - War Chest Street Stencil.	1942
4/12	Civil Works Administration	1933
4/13	Civil Works Administration Projects (January)	1934
4/14	Civil Works Administration Projects (February)	1934
4/15	Civil Works Administration Projects (March-May)	1934
4/16	Civil Works Administration (June-December) Federal Emergency Relief Administration	1934
4/17	Classification and Compensation	1945-1957
4/18	Correspondence - Miscellaneous	1944-1945

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/19	Downtown Parks Committee - Committee Meetings	1958-1959
4/20	Downtown Parks Committee - Minutes	1958-1960
4/21	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Community Correspondence	1974
4/22	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Community Correspondence	1975
4/23	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Community Correspondence	1976-1977
5/1	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Government Correspondence	1974
5/2	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Government Correspondence	1975
5/3	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Government Correspondence	1975
5/4	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Government Correspondence	1976
5/5	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Government Correspondence	1977
5/6	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Misc. Correspondence	1974
5/7	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Misc. Correspondence	1975
5/8	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Central Business District, Misc. Correspondence	1976-1977
5/9	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Economic Impact of Exclusive Bus Lanes in the Seattle Central Business District	1976
5/10	Exclusive Bus Lanes - Public Hearing, City Council Transportation Committee (transcript)	1976

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/11	First Avenue South Bridge Interchange	1945-1952
5/12	Fourth Avenue South Railroad Signals	1934
5/13	Fourth Avenue South Traffic Safety and Railroad Crossing (Maps)	1934-1936
5/14	Harbor Island - Parking and Traffic Patterns (Maps)	1941-1943
5/15	Harbor Island - Parking and Traffic Patterns (Maps)	1941-1943
6/1	Highway Research Board (National Research Council)	1941-1943
6/2	Institute of Government, University of Washington	1937-1939
6/3	Institute of Government, University of Washington	1940-1944
6/4	Institute of Traffic Engineers - Preliminary Report of Sub Committee on Traffic Operations Improvements	1945
6/5	Institute of Traffic Engineers - Post War Planning, Organization and Administration of City Traffic Engineering Departments (Draft)	1944
6/6	Institute of Traffic Engineers - Post War Planning Committee	1944-1945
6/7	Institute of Traffic Engineers - War Transportation Committee, Case Report on Traffic and Transport Sea-Tac Shipbuilding Co Terminal Parking, Boeing Plant 2	1944
6/8	Lake Washington Floating Bridge	1938-1939
6/9	Lake Washington Floating Bridge - Dedication	1940
6/10	Lake Washington Floating Bridge - Traffic Distribution Maps.	1937-1938
6/11	Lake Washington Second Floating Bridge Location	1951-1953
6/12	Legislation - National	1931-1941
6/13	Lock Your Car Anti-Theft Program	1965-1968

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6/14	Mayor's General Committee on Traffic Conditions in the South End	1941
6/15	Mayor William Devin - Correspondence	1947-1950
6/16	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1941
6/17	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1942
7/1	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1943
7/2	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1944
7/3	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1945
7/4	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1946
7/5	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs	1947-1949
7/6	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs - Army and Navy, Seattle Traffic Route Maps	1941-1943
7/7	Military Traffic Route and Parking Needs - Army and Navy, Traffic Route and Parking Needs, Vehicle Routing at Sick's Stadium	1942
7/8	National Safety Council Contest Correspondence	1941-1944
7/9	National Safety Council Contest - Report to Judges	1932-1941
7/10	National Safety Contest - Seattle Entry I	1945
7/11	National Safety Contest - Seattle Entry II	1945
7/12	National Safety Contest - Seattle Entry III	1945
7/13	Parking - Seattle Central Business District, Resume of Parking Study	1948
7/14	Port of Seattle - Rules and Regulations	1942
7/15	Post-War Traffic Planning	1944-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/16	Potlatch of Progress Parade	1934-1935
7/17	Potlatch of Progress Parade (includes map)	1938
7/18	Potlatch of Progress Parade	1939
7/19	Purchasing - Wartime Priority Ratings	1941-1943
8/1	Reflecting Signs	1929-1934
8/2	Reflecting Signs - Canadian Traffic Signal Corporation	1929
8/3	Report on Street Traffic Survey (WPA) - Request for Copies	1937-1943
8/4	Review of the Organization and Activities of the Traffic Engineering Division. Engineering Department, City of Seattle	1944
8/5	Roosevelt Way - Widening	1938
8/6	Safety Islands - Location Maps	undated
8/7	School Crossings	1927-1930
8/8	School Crossings	1931-1932
8/9	School Crossings	1933-1934
8/10	School Crossings	1935-1937
8/11	School Crossings	1940-1944
8/12	Seattle Center Stadium - Traffic and Access Analysis (Washington Highway Department)	1968
8/13	Seattle Municipal Street Railway - Proposed Route Maps, The Beeler Organization	1939
8/14	Seattle Police Department - Junior Safety Division, Annual Reports	1940-1942
8/15	Seattle Police Department - Junior Safety Division, Reports on Halloween Depredations and Vandalism	1937-1944

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/16	Seattle Police Department - Junior Safety Division, Reports on Halloween Depredations and Vandalism	1937-1944
8/17	Seattle Safety Council	1943-1944
8/18	Seattle Safety Council - A Report on the Seattle Pedestrian Accident Problem	1943
8/19	Seattle Safety Council Meetings	1943-1944
8/20	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1930
9/1	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1931
9/2	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1932
9/3	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1933
9/4	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1934
9/5	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1935
9/6	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1936
9/7	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1937
9/8	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1938
9/9	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1939-1940
9/10	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council	1941-1943
9/11	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council - Minutes	1938-1939
9/12	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council - Minutes	1940-1941
9/13	Seattle Traffic and Safety Council - Newsletters	1937-1942
9/14	Seattle Traffic Research Commission - Plans and Statistics. Rapid Transit Planning	1928
10/1	Seattle Transit System	1939

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/2	Seattle Transit System (January - February)	1940
10/3	Seattle Transit System (March-May)	1940
10/4	Seattle Transit System (June-August)	1940
10/5	Seattle Transit System (September -October)	1940
10/6	Seattle Transit System (November)	1940
10/7	Seattle Transit System (December)	1940
10/8	Seattle Transit System	1941-1942
10/9	Seattle Transit System	1944
10/10	Seattle Transit System (January-May)	1945
10/11	Seattle Transit System (June-December)	1945
10/12	Seattle Transit System	1946
10/13	Seattle Transit System	1947
10/14	Seattle Transit System (January-July)	1948
10/15	Seattle Transit System (August-December)	1948
10/16	Seattle Transit System - Routing Maps, Downtown Business District	1940-1942
10/17	Seneca Street Extension - Harvard Avenue to Broadway	1934-1935
10/18	Seneca Street Extension - Maps and Drawings	1934-1935
10/19	Sick's Seattle Stadium - Economic Analysis of Proposed City Purchase	1965
11/1	Sick's Seattle Stadium - Right of Way Study	1965
11/2	Spokane Street Viaduct	1941-1943

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/3	Spokane Street Viaduct - Maps and Drawings	1941-1943
11/4	Stadium Preliminary Site Selection	1967-1968
11/5	Street Classifications	1949
11/6	Street Closures - Board of Public Works	1969-1970
11/7	Street Closures - Board of Public Works	1971
11/8	Street Closures - International District	1970-1971
11/9	Street Lighting Traffic Safety - Plans and Reports	1951-1971
11/10	Street Lighting Traffic Safety - Plans and Reports. Maps	1945-1971
11/11	Traffic Accident Statistics - Monthly reports (January-June)	1939
11/12	Traffic Accident Statistics - Monthly reports (July-December)	1939
11/13	Traffic Accident Statistics - Monthly reports (January-June)	1944
11/14	Traffic Accident Statistics - Monthly reports (July-December)	1944
12/1	Traffic Engineering from the Viewpoint of an Urban Traffic Engineer (speech)	1944
12/2	Traffic Law Enforcement	1937-1938
12/3	Truck Traffic Committee	1941
12/4	University of Washington Approach - Traffic and Grade Separation Master Plan (Drawings)	1944
12/5	War Production Transportation Commission	1942
12/6	War Production Transportation Commission - Share the Ride	1942
12/7	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 310 Traffic Survey	1935

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12/8	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 310 Traffic Survey	1936
12/9	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 310 Traffic Survey - Instructions	1934
12/10	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 310 - Summarized Reports	1936
12/11	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Report Exhibits	1936
12/12	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 310 Traffic Survey - Summary and Status Reports	1936
12/13	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Traffic Survey. Brief of Engineering Manual for Traffic Surveys	1934
12/14	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 4163 Traffic Survey	1936-1937
12/15	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project No 4163 Traffic Survey - Traffic Flow Map	1937
12/16	Works Progress Administration (WPA) Police Department Proposal for Minor Traffic Violation Aides	1935
13/1	Central Business District Signal System Project	1984-1985
13/2	Half Signal Usage Proposal	1985
13/3	Midvale Pl. Safety	1986
13/4	Neighborhood Speed Watch Program	1986-1987
13/5	Neighborhood Traffic Control Program	1988
13/6	No Smoking Policy Committee	1985
13/7	Pedestrian Model Safety Program	1986
13/8	South Transfer Station	1985
13/9	Street / Traffic Classification Issues	1983

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/10	Traffic Counts - ML King Way	1982-1988.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Alaskan Way Viaduct (Seattle, Wash.)
Aurora Avenue (Seattle and Shoreline, Wash.)
Bus lanes--Washington (State)--Seattle
Civil defense--Washington (State)--Seattle
Traffic safety--Washington (State)--Seattle
Traffic engineering--Washington (State)--Seattle
Transportation planning--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Bollong, J.W.A. "Arch"
(creator)

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Engineering Dept.
Seattle Transit System
United States. Work Projects Administration. State of Washington

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Scott Cline
2006