

## APPENDIX A PROJECT BENEFITS

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The Tukwila to Renton Project will provide city-wide and regional benefits. These benefits include reduced congestion at the areas currently considered chokepoints in the study area, such as the I-405/SR 167 interchange; shorter periods of congestion during peak commuter travel hours; and improved freight movement. With the improvements in place, average freeway speeds will increase in 2014 by roughly 10 to 15 miles per hour over speeds without the project. The increase in speed and capacity will enhance the ability of emergency response teams to reach destinations via I-405 and SR 167. The new HOV direct-connector ramps within the I-405/SR 167 interchange will save travel time for transit and HOVs and improve the efficiency of the HOV lanes as those using the lanes will not be required to merge back into general-purpose traffic to travel between the two highways.

A major benefit will be the improvements in safety realized by this project. With the added capacity, congestion-related accidents will be reduced. The project also improves roadway geometrics and reduces the number of conflict points at the interchanges along this section of I-405. Since these improvements address many of the issues that currently result in accidents, it is expected that this section of freeway will no longer be considered a High Accident Corridor. The project will also improve safety by reducing the frequency and severity of accidents related to merging into the HOV lanes. This is accomplished by limiting access to the HOV lanes to defined merge points and adding a four-foot-wide striped buffer that separates the HOV lanes from the general-purpose lanes. In addition, with the HOV direct-connector ramps at the I-405/SR 167 interchange, HOV traffic will not have to cross general-purpose traffic to reach exits to travel between I-405 and SR 167.

An additional benefit will be an improvement in surface water management and water quality. Although the project will add impervious surfaces, the project will build treatment for more than twice the added area. With these systems in place, flow rates in streams and rivers are expected to improve, benefiting overall surface water management. The additional stormwater treatment will also improve surface water quality.

The Tukwila to Renton Project will directly affect ecosystems. However, some of these effects are beneficial. The ecosystems will benefit from the stormwater treatment facilities and from the mitigation provided for affected areas. The proposed mitigation will improve the quality of the environment over present conditions.

The project will benefit the community by creating a new pedestrian facility that will run from the Renton Hill Neighborhood down to the Cedar River. The new facility will be east of I-405, across from the existing Freeway Park, and will improve access to the Tri-Park area for residents of the Renton Hill Neighborhood.

This project will also benefit the community by building two noise barriers along the I-405 corridor in Renton. One of these barriers will be in front of the Berkshire Apartments and the other will be in front of the Renton Hill Neighborhood. These barriers will reduce the level of freeway noise for the people living in these areas.

Another benefit of this project is that it will apply the context-sensitive solutions design choices made by the communities within the I-405 corridor. These guidelines will help the project fit aesthetically within the landscape.