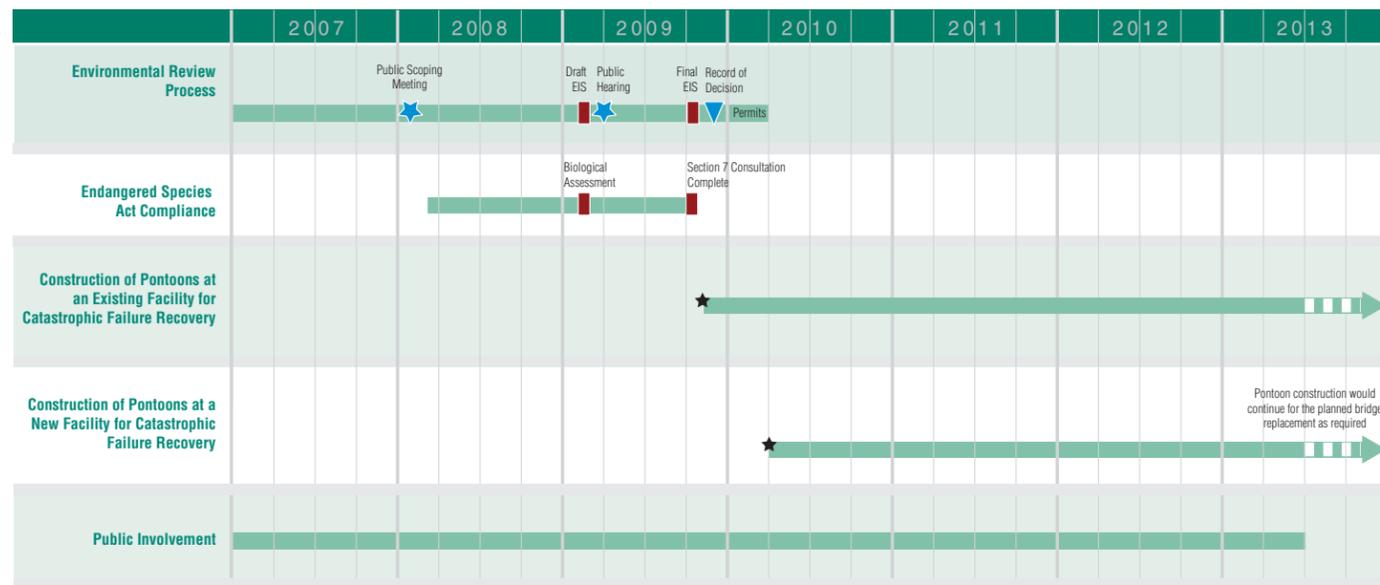




Early Pontoon Construction Project schedule



★ Depending on funding availability

Your comments and questions are important to us.

Project Web site:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/pontoons

Phone: 1-888-520-6397

E-mail: pontoons@wsdot.wa.gov

Mail: WSDOT
 600 Stewart Street, Suite 520
 Seattle, WA 98101



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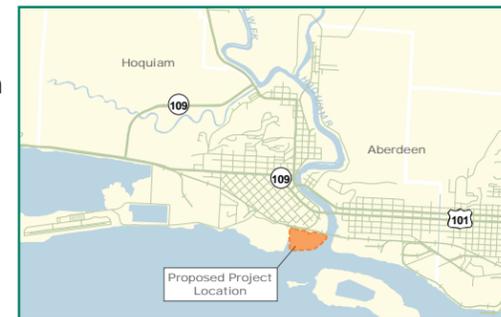
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Keeping us afloat

Spring 2008

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is advancing pontoon construction to recover the floating section of the SR 520 bridge in case of a catastrophic failure. The SR 520 Evergreen Point Bridge over Lake Washington has endured severe winter storms, making the floating section increasingly vulnerable to wind and waves. The fixed structures are also vulnerable to failure in an earthquake.



We are moving forward with the environmental process and plan to release a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in early 2009 for the construction and storage of pontoons for catastrophic failure recovery. If the pontoons are not needed for emergency use, they would be used for the planned replacement of the SR 520 bridge.

We are exploring constructing pontoons at an existing facility in Tacoma in addition to a proposed new facility. In early March, the governor announced her support for developing a new facility at a Port of Grays Harbor property zoned for industrial development. This property meets critical project needs and is the only location we are currently evaluating through the environmental process.

Through the environmental documentation and design processes, we will continue to coordinate with resource agencies and the construction industry on complying with environmental regulations and determining efficient design and construction methods.



WSDOT employees and tour group walking on a pontoon supporting the SR 520 bridge

What are bridge pontoons? Pontoons are the foundation of a floating bridge. These large, hollow concrete structures are designed to support the weight of the road, plus the cars, trucks and buses that use the bridge daily. Depending on the bridge design, pontoons can be as long as a football field and as tall as a two-story building.

How do pontoons float? A floating bridge is similar to a tanker ship or barge. Despite being heavy concrete structures, pontoons float because the water they displace weighs the same as the pontoons and road they support.

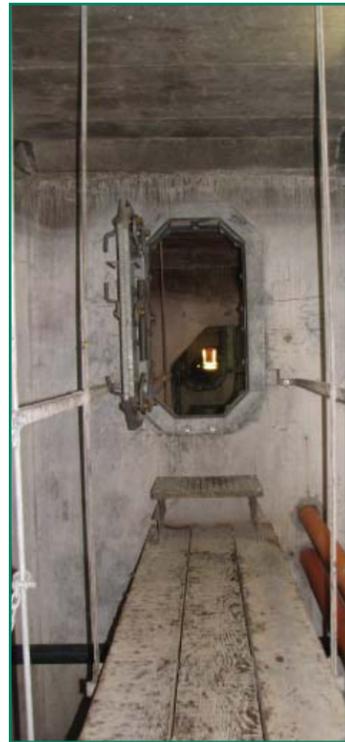




View of the SR 520 floating bridge pontoon from underneath the west highrise

Why is pontoon construction important?

If the SR 520 bridge failed, it could take several years to construct the 7,600 linear feet of pontoons needed to recover the existing bridge. The timely availability of new pontoons is a critical element of restoring the bridge for drivers and maintaining the regional transportation system.



View from inside a pontoon



WSDOT employee enters pontoon during the annual bridge inspection



Aerial of photo of the Industrial Development District property we are evaluating for the Early Pontoon Construction Project

Where will the new facility be developed?

We are currently evaluating a Port of Grays Harbor property for development of a new pontoon construction facility. In 2004, we solicited proposals for a location to build the pontoons for the SR 104 Hood Canal and SR 520 bridges. After careful evaluation, we determined that the industrial property in Hoquiam has the features we need to construct pontoons:

- Immediately available.
- Sufficient capacity to build several pontoons at the same time.
- Waterfront access to deep water.
- No known prehistoric cultural resources.
- No known chemical contamination.



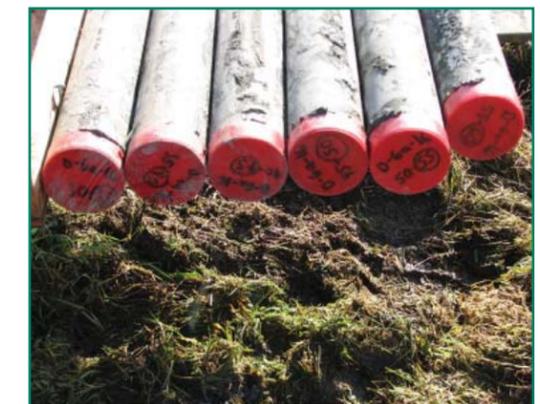
Pontoons under construction for the existing SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge in 2006

How are floating bridges built? The steps to building a floating bridge start with pontoons:

- 1 – Form the box-like shape of the pontoons by using wood and steel forms.
- 2 – Pour concrete into the forms to create the pontoon floors, walls and top slabs.
- 3 – Tow the pontoons to the bridge site.
- 4 – Join pontoons together and secure in place by steel cables that are anchored to the seafloor or lakebed.
- 5 – Add the road, concrete columns or beams on top of the pontoons. These structures can be added either before or after the pontoons are transported to the bridge site.



Crews gathering soil samples



The samples were carefully identified and then surveyed in the lab for potential evidence of historical and cultural resources

What have we already done at the site?

We have conducted preliminary investigations to help us determine the suitability of this location for the project. We wanted to find out what we would encounter when developing this property. Our crews:

- Looked for potential evidence of cultural and historic resources.
- Tested for environmental contaminants.
- Identified wetlands and habitats.
- Gathered soil and sediment samples.