



## SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project Monthly Public Meeting #5 – Summary

Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Graham Visitors Center  
2300 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle, WA 98112

### Attendees

#### Flatiron West, Inc.

- Justin Allington, Project Manager
- Dan Jordan, Environmental Compliance Lead

#### WSDOT

- Brian Dobbins, WABN Construction Engineering Manager
- James VanSteenburg, WABN Deputy Construction Manager
- Kristin Sandstrom, WABN Communications Manager
- Emily Namiki, WABN Communications
- Kathryn Murdock, WABN Communications

#### City of Seattle

- Eric O'Brien, Seattle Department of Transportation

### Meeting overview

On March 4, WSDOT and contractor, Flatiron West, Inc., cohosted a monthly public meeting and invited the local community to learn about upcoming construction activities on the [SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project](#) (WABN). Approximately eight members of the public attended. The monthly meeting is an informal forum where community members can learn about progress on the WABN project and ask WSDOT staff and the contractor questions about construction activities.

#### Sidewalk detours: Justin Allington

- The sidewalk between East Hamlin Street and the westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard is closed to allow crews to remove and replace the sidewalk. When complete, the sidewalk will meet American Disability Act (ADA) standards and be widened to ten feet.
  - Crews are delicately excavating the sidewalk so that they do not destroy tree roots while removing sections of concrete.
- Sidewalk detours on Montlake Boulevard are part of a larger plan divided into three phases:
  - **Phase one:** Sidewalks are closed north and south of East Hamlin Street.
    - Pedestrians traveling from the SR 520 eastbound and westbound flyer stop travel south, cross at the Montlake Boulevard and East Lake Washington Boulevard intersection, and travel north on the west side of Montlake Boulevard to go to the University District. Pedestrians can also take a shortcut around the closure by taking the eastbound flyer stop stairs from the east side of Montlake Boulevard to the west side of Montlake Boulevard.

- **Phase two:** The southeast and northeast corners of East Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake Boulevard will be closed.
  - Pedestrians traveling westbound from East Lake Washington Boulevard will be detoured south to East Roanoke Street, cross at the East Montlake Place East intersection in front of the Montlake Market, and travel on the west side of Montlake Boulevard.
  - From the flyer stops on SR 520, pedestrians will be detoured up to East Shelby Street, cross Shelby and come south on the west side of Montlake Boulevard.
- **Phase three:** The bus stop and transit island area by the eastbound SR 520 ramps to and from Montlake Boulevard will be closed.
  - Pedestrians will be detoured to the east side of Montlake Boulevard.
  - There will be bus stop reroutes during the bus stop closure.
- During sidewalk detours, please follow the detour signs and maps. The detour is well delineated and it is unsafe for pedestrians to travel on the street around the closure.
  - On the first day of the sidewalk closure, Flatiron had a uniformed officer informing pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists of the detour route.
  - WSDOT communications staff was also onsite informing the public for the first two days of the closure during peak commuting hours.

#### **Local street and highway closures: Justin Allington and Brian Dobbins**

- Westbound SR 520 will be closed from 11 p.m. Friday, March 13 to 5 a.m. Monday, March 16. During the weekend closure, Flatiron plans to do the following work:
  - Remove excess debris from the demolition of the R.H. Thomson “Ramps to Nowhere” on the north side of SR 520.
    - Crews will haul the dirt away to make room to demolish the remaining retaining walls.
  - Demolish the retaining walls near the former R.H. Thomson “Ramps to Nowhere” on the north side of SR 520.
  - Demolish the barrier, railing and existing bridge deck of SR 520 to facilitate the 12-foot-widening of the existing westbound lanes and support the new SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard.
  - Pave a 12-foot-widening to the existing westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard in the footprint of the existing retaining wall. Crews will set barrier to push traffic slightly north as it exits SR 520 onto the westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard.
    - After the widening is in place, trucks that deliver materials to the former Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) staging area will no longer need to use the 24th Avenue bridge at night because they will have freeway access directly to the staging area site.
  - Lay pipe across the westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard, SR 520 westbound lanes and the median. This pipe will connect new drainage from the footprint of the former MOHAI building to East Lake Washington Boulevard. When complete, the drainage will connect to an existing pump station underneath the former MOHAI building.
- For the future, unfunded phases of SR 520, geotechnical crews need to drill borings in various locations around the Montlake interchange to learn what is underneath Montlake. Upcoming closures for this work include:

- March 7 and 8: Single-lane closures on Montlake Boulevard between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. One lane will be closed in each direction on Montlake Boulevard during this closure.
- March 14 and 15: During the weekend closure, Geotechnical crews will close two different areas:
  - Montlake Boulevard: Crews will close a portion of the southbound left-turn lane from Montlake Boulevard to East Lake Washington Boulevard for up to two days between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Drivers will still be able to use the southbound left-turn lane to access East Lake Washington Boulevard during this work. Both lanes of Montlake Boulevard will be open to traffic.
  - SR 520, between Montlake Boulevard and I-5: Between 6 a.m. and midnight on Saturday, March 14, crews will close a single lane of SR 520 between Montlake Boulevard and I-5. If work is not completed on Saturday, crews will close the same lane starting at 6 a.m. on Sunday until work is completed.

### **MOHAI demolition: Justin Allington**

- Last month, crews removed the MOHAI building to allow room for additional construction staging and constructing a new off-ramp at 24th Avenue East.
- During the meeting, attendees viewed a time-lapse video of demolition activities. To see the video, visit our [YouTube page](#).

### **Construction progress: Justin Allington**

- Crews continue progress on the temporary work bridge and connected the two sections of the temporary work bridge this past month.
  - In February, crews began construction of the first finger piers. All finger piers are currently east of the Arboretum ramps, also called the SR 520 ramps to and from Lake Washington Boulevard, because crews cannot build finger piers west of that area until they finish demolition of the R.H. Thomson ramps.
  - Crews have 24 more spans to build of the temporary work bridge and are four weeks from building the full length of the bridge. When complete, the temporary work bridge will end near the West Connection Bridge.
- On March 4, crews installed the first two permanent casings for the permanent WABN structure.

### **Orange Page: Kristin Sandstrom**

- On the WABN project, there are a lot of activities happening all over the site and it's difficult to know what is happening near you or whether a closure might impact your weekend travels. The SR 520 Orange Page can help you find the information you need and whether it will impact you.
- [The SR 520 Orange Page](#) is an interactive site:
  - You can put the date in of activities that you are looking for.
  - You can choose what activity you are most interested in looking for; a full highway closure, lane/ramp closure or nighttime work.
  - After you choose the activity, the SR 520 Orange Page will give you details about the activity including a map, the duration of the activity, impacts, and contact information for our 24-hour hotline and email.
  - The page also shows how Flatiron uses construction best management practices to make the impacts easier for you.

- The SR 520 Orange Page is your best resource to find out what is currently happening on the project.

## Key comments and questions

The summary below highlights key comments, questions and responses posed during the discussion. The summary is not verbatim but represents the themes of the comments and responses.

### Nighttime noise

- **Question:** What kind of noise can we expect for the weekend closure at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.?
- **Response (Flatiron):** Flatiron has a temporary noise variance for the weekend closure which means that crews can work around the clock as long as they stay within the noise limits set by the city of Seattle. You will not hear jackhammers or flat saws but you may hear an excavator after 10 p.m. It will likely be similar to the noise produced when crews loaded rubble on the R.H. Thomson “Ramps to Nowhere” during the November weekend closure but it may be worse for neighbors that live next to the MOHAI staging area because MOHAI is no longer there to absorb some of the noise.

### Transit access during WABN construction

- **Question:** Will there always be access to the buses on SR 520?
- **Response (WSDOT):** Yes there will always be access to buses that serve both freeway transit stops on SR 520.
- **Question:** Will you ever close the southbound bus stop near the eastbound off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard?
- **Response (Flatiron):** Yes, we will close that bus stop for a short amount of time during phase three of sidewalk closures. During that time transit riders can catch their buses at alternate locations:
  - **Route 25:** Bus stop at East Roanoke Street just west of 22nd Avenue East.
  - **Routes 43 & 48:** Southbound bus stop on East Montlake Place East just south of East Roanoke Street.
  - **Routes 167, 277, ST 540, ST 542 & ST 556:** Board any bus serving the eastbound Montlake Freeway Station below on SR 520 and transfer to these routes at the Evergreen Point Road Freeway Station.
  - **Route 271:** Eastbound bus stop on Northeast Pacific Street just east of Northeast Pacific Place (in front of the UW Medical Center).

### Vibration monitoring

- **Question:** I’ve heard from one of our neighbors who lives in a historic home on East Montlake Place East that his ceiling cracked during the November closure. We have heard that there are vibration monitors throughout the project. Where are they located and how are they monitoring activities?
- **Response (WSDOT):** There are three to four vibration monitors closest to work activities on Lake Washington Boulevard, four to five in the Madison Park area and one near the daycare center on East Hamlin Street. The vibration monitors are monitored continuously on a computer system 24 hours per day. If they exceed the vibration limits in the contract, a notification is sent to Flatiron and a WSDOT project engineer. To date, WSDOT and Flatiron have not received any

notification of vibration levels exceeding the limits in the contract. WSDOT has visited the homeowner you are referring to twice to monitor the damage in his home.

- **Question:** Have there been high levels of vibration closer to the construction site?
- **Response (WSDOT):** No, there have been no notifications of vibrations exceeding the limits in the contract. Our limits are very tight and were set by the Federal Transit Authority's guidelines for historic structures.
- **Comment (Montlake neighbor):** I haven't heard of any complaints from the homeowner's neighbors.
- **Response (WSDOT):** WSDOT has not either. If any homeowner experiences issues in their home from vibration, they should call the hotline (206-708-4657) and WSDOT will send an engineer out to assess the damage.
- **Comment (Montlake neighbor):** I think the homeowner was pretty happy that he received a quick response.
- **Comment (WSDOT):** WSDOT has done an evaluation on this homeowner's house and are continuing to monitor the situation. We have only heard from one neighbor living closer to construction, John Decker. He has heard construction but does not have any cracks in his home yet.
- **Comment (Montlake neighbor):** He has mentioned that he would like to have a vibration monitor in his house.
- **Response (WSDOT):** WSDOT can look into that.

#### **Former MOHAI building**

- **Question:** Where did you haul away the debris from the demolition of the former MOHAI building?
- **Response (Flatiron):** We sent as much of the steel and concrete rubble as we could to be recycled and the rest went to a landfill.

#### **WSDOT Peninsula**

- **Question:** I live on Lake Washington Boulevard about three doors off of the entrance to your offices. After this phase is over in 2017, what is your responsibility in regards to cleaning up the WSDOT peninsula?
- **Response (WSDOT):** We will restore it to a better state than we found it.
- **Question:** Will the WSDOT peninsula be restored to the arboretum?
- **Response (WSDOT):** When we receive more funding, we will build the West Approach Bridge South (WABS) and will likely use the WSDOT peninsula as staging area while building those lanes. After construction of the WABS is complete, there is an agreement with Seattle Parks & Recreation to turn the land over to the city to implement the Arboretum North Entry Project. This particular wetland mitigation will not be realized until WABS is built and the project no longer needs the WSDOT peninsula for staging area.

#### **Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) drainage relocation**

- **Question:** The Shelby/Hamlin neighborhood received fliers from SPU about a seven day water shutoff. Does this water shutoff coincide with the weekend closure?
- **Response (WSDOT):** It does not necessarily coincide with the closure but will be part of the drainage relocation.

- **Response (Flatiron):** As soon as Flatiron is ready for SPU to do their portion of the work, SPU will notify the neighborhood and complete the work.

**WABN design**

- **Question:** Does the WABN phase go to Montlake Boulevard?
- **Response (WSDOT):** Yes. This phase extends from the floating bridge to Montlake Boulevard but only builds the westbound lanes. The final lane configuration will change at Foster Island, three lanes will become two to match the existing condition.
- **Question:** How high is the new westbound SR 520 off-ramp at 24th Avenue East?
- **Response (WSDOT):** The new westbound SR 520 off-ramp at 24th Avenue East will be the same height as it today, about 20 feet. Crews will just extend it to build the off-ramp.
- **Question:** How high is the new WABN structure?
- **Response (WSDOT):** The new WABN structure will be about 20 feet off the ground. It will not be like the current structure you see today that floats on the water.

**Action Items**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Follow up</b>
At the meeting, WSDOT received a request for a site tour during one of our monthly meetings.	WSDOT will identify a good date for a tour where it is light outside during the monthly meeting time of 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Follow up with John Decker with information about vibration monitoring	WSDOT will include information at the next Section 106 Concurring Party meeting, which Mr. Decker regularly attends as the Montlake representative.