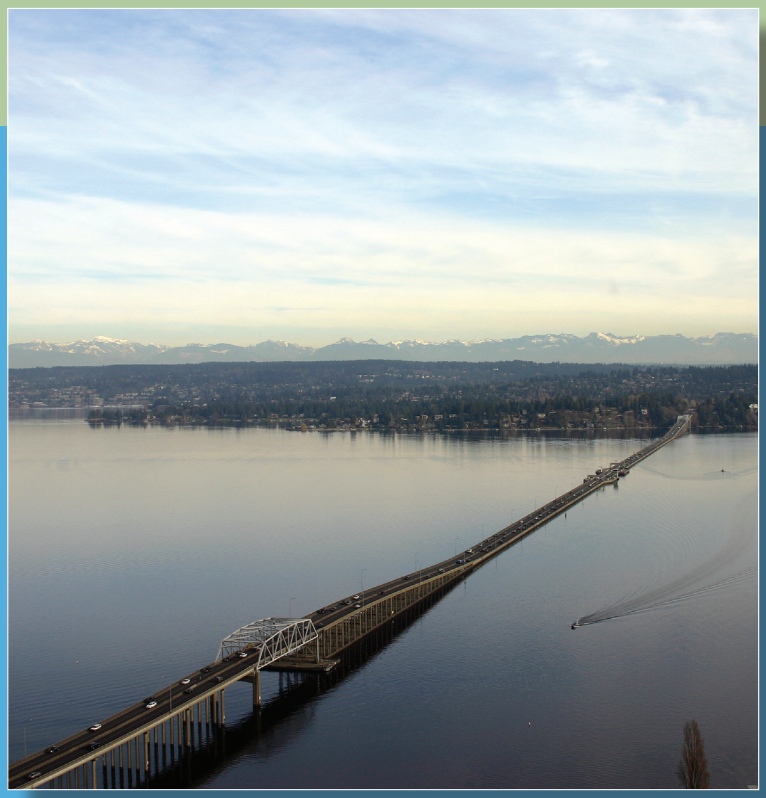
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
and SECTION 4(f) and 6(f) EVALUATIONS
SR 520 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND HOV PROGRAM

JUNE 2011

SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Washington State
Department of Transportation

FHWA-WA-EIS-06-02-F

SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program

SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) and 6(f) Evaluations

ABSTRACT

The existing Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges on SR 520 are at the end of their useful life and must be replaced. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) plan to replace the existing facilities in order to provide structures capable of withstanding windstorms and earthquakes and to improve mobility and access for people and goods along the corridor.

The August 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program evaluated the No Build Alternative and two build alternatives, the 4-Lane Alternative and the 6-Lane Alternative. The January 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS and Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation evaluated the effects of a No Build Alternative and three design options for the 6-Lane Alternative for the SR 520, I-5 to Medina project. These design options were developed through a mediation process established as part of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6099, enacted during the 2008 session of the Washington State Legislature.

Based on findings of the SDEIS and comments submitted, a Preferred Alternative was identified in 2010. This Final EIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Preferred Alternative compared to the No Build Alternative and the three SDEIS design options. No decision will be made on the proposed action prior to July 18, 2011. For information about the project, contact Margaret Kucharski, WSDOT Environmental Lead, 600 Stewart Street, Suite 520, Seattle, Washington 98101, (206) 770-3500.

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO:
National Environmental Policy Act, 42 USC 4332(2)(C)
State Environmental Policy Act, Chapter 43.21C,
Revised Code of Washington & Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code 468-12
Section 4(f) (49 USC § 303 and USC § 138)

Daniel M. Mathis

Daniel M. Mathis, P.E.
Washington Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

05/26/2011
Date of Approval

Megan White

Megan White, P.E.
Director, Environmental Services Office
Washington State Department of Transportation

5/26/2011
Date of Approval

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3 List of Preparers

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6 Federal Register Notices

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7 Discipline Reports:

2011 Discipline Reports and Discipline Report Addenda

Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Air Quality Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Construction Techniques and Activities Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Description of Alternatives Discipline Report Addendum
Ecosystems Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Energy Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Environmental Justice Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Final Cultural Resources Assessment and Discipline Report)
Final Indirect and Cumulative Impacts Discipline Report
Final Transportation Discipline Report
Geology and Soils Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Hazardous Materials Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Land Use, Economics, and Relocations Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Navigable Waterways Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Noise Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Recreation Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Social Elements, Public Services, and Utilities Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Visual Quality and Aesthetics Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
Water Resources Discipline Report Addendum and Errata
2009 Discipline Reports
Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Discipline Report
Air Quality Discipline Report (2009)
Construction Techniques and Activities Discipline Report
Cultural Resources Discipline Report
Description of Alternatives Discipline Report
Ecosystems Discipline Report
Energy Discipline Report
Environmental Justice Discipline Report
Geology and Soils Discipline Report
Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis Discipline Report
Land Use, Economics, and Relocations Discipline Report
Navigable Waterways Discipline Report
Noise Discipline Report
Range of Alternatives and Options Evaluated
Recreation Discipline Report
Social Elements Discipline Report
Transportation Discipline Report
Visual Quality and Aesthetics Discipline Report

Water Resources Discipline Report

8 Correspondence

9 Mitigation Plans

10 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS

11 Responses to 2010 SDEIS Comments

12 2006 Draft EIS (without appendices)

13 Draft EIS Comment Summary Report

14 Health Impact Assessment

15 Section 6(f) Environmental Evaluation

16 ESSB 6392: Design Refinements and Transit Connections Workgroup Recommendations Report

17 Section 4(f) Constructive Use Analysis Technical Memorandum

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SEPA Fact Sheet

Project Title: SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

Project Description

The State Route (SR) 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project proposes to replace SR 520's Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges and improve the existing roadway between Interstate 5 (I-5) in Seattle and Evergreen Point Road in Medina.

The proposed action spans 5.2 miles of the SR 520 corridor and is one of four projects in the SR 520 Program. A 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed proposed corridor construction from the I-5 interchange in Seattle to just west of I-405 in Bellevue. A Supplemental Draft EIS in 2010 evaluated the effects of a No Build Alternative and three 6-lane design options for the SR 520 corridor from I-5 to Medina. A Preferred Alternative, similar to Option A, was identified in April 2011 following consideration of comments on the SDEIS.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) and 6(f) Evaluations analyzes a No Build Alternative along with a Preferred Alternative and the three SDEIS design options for the I-5 to Medina corridor. The Preferred Alternative and the design options would replace vulnerable structures, add continuous HOV lanes, and include landscaped lids over SR 520 to reconnect neighborhoods that are now separated by the highway.

Project Proponents

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency; Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is the lead State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) agency.

Responsible NEPA Official

Daniel M. Mathis, P.E.
Division Administrator
FHWA Washington Division

Responsible SEPA Official

Megan White, P.E.
Director, Environmental Services Office
Washington State Department of Transportation

Proposed Project Implementation

Construction is planned to begin in 2012, and the new Evergreen Point Bridge is expected to open to traffic as early as 2014. The rest of the project is planned for completion by 2018, but may be built in phases based on funding availability.

Contact Information

For information about the project contact the following:

Margaret Kucharski
WSDOT Environmental Lead
SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520
Seattle, WA 98101

Access the Final EIS online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr520bridge/. To listen to a recording of the latest project information or to submit a question, please call the project hotline at 1-888-520-6397.

Anticipated Permits and Approvals

Federal

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

- Section 404, Individual Permits
- Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

U.S. Coast Guard: Section 9, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

U.S. Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Section 6(f))

U.S. Department of Transportation Section 4(f)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries:

- Section 7, Endangered Species Act Consultation
- Magnuson-Stevens Essential Fish Habitat Consultation

Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation: National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Section 106)

State and Regional

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Clean Air Conformity Certification

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval

Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Lands Use Authorization

Washington State Department of Ecology:

- 401 Water Quality Certification
- 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Coastal Zone Management Act

Local

WSDOT will obtain the applicable local permits from the cities of Seattle and Medina, where the project would be located. These permits include:

City of Medina:

- Building Permit
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit/Variance/Conditional Use
- Noise Variance

City of Seattle:

- Environmentally Critical Areas Permit
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit/Variance/Conditional Use
- Street Use Permit
- Noise Variance

Authors and Principal Contributors

This Final EIS was prepared under the direction of WSDOT and FHWA. Research, analysis, and document preparation were provided by the preparers listed in Attachment 3.

Final EIS Issue Date

June 17, 2011

Anticipated Record of Decision Issue Date

FHWA expects to issue a Record of Decision on this project no earlier than July 18, 2011.

Location of Background Data

The 2006 Draft EIS, 2010 SDEIS, technical discipline reports, and other supporting documentation are maintained at the following locations:

Federal Highway Administration
Randy Everett
Seattle Major Projects Oversight Manager
Federal Highway Administration
915 Second Avenue
Room 3142
Seattle, WA 98174

Washington State Department of Transportation
Allison Hanson
Environmental Director
Mega Projects Office
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104

Document Cost and Availability

The Final EIS is available on CD-ROM at no charge, and print copies are available for $60, a cost which does not exceed printing and mailing costs. Copies can be obtained at the SR 520 Project Office, 600 Stewart Street, Suite 520, Seattle, WA 98101. The Final EIS and related attachments can also be viewed at the following libraries:

Aberdeen Timberland Library

Bellevue College Library Media Center

King County Library System - Bellevue Regional Library

King County Library System - Kingsgate Library

King County Library System - Kirkland Library

King County Library System - Lake Hills Library

King County Library System - Newport Way Library

King County Library System - Redmond Regional Library

Lake Washington Technical College, Technical Library

Municipal Research and Services Center Library

Natural Resources Library

North Seattle Community College Library

Seattle Central Community College, Library

Seattle Public Library - Central Branch

Seattle Public Library - International District/Chinatown Branch

Seattle Public Library - Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch

Seattle Public Library - Montlake Branch

Seattle Public Library - North East Branch

Seattle Public Library - University Branch

Sound Transit

Timberland Regional Library

US Army Corp of Engineers - Seattle District Library

US EPA Region 10 Library

UW - Suzzallo and Allen Libraries

UW Department of Engineering - Library

UW Office of the Board of Regents

Washington State Department of Ecology Library
Washington State Library
WSDOT Headquarters Library