

Message from the SR 520 Program Administrator

Hello,

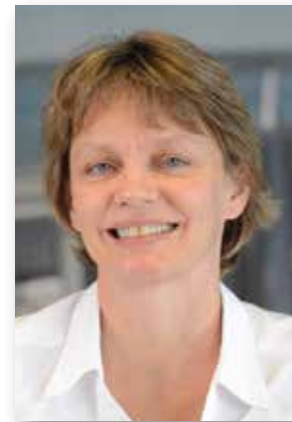
With a new year upon us, I want to thank everyone who helped make 2016 an incredible year for the State Route 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program. SR 520 is a critically important transportation link for our region. Tens of thousands of people travel daily between Seattle and the Eastside on SR 520. Tens of thousands more live or work near the corridor. As Administrator of the SR 520 reconstruction program, I lead the teams working to make the highway a safer and more reliable thoroughfare. It's a big, years-long effort. I'm sending this newsletter to update you on what we accomplished in the year just passed and take a glimpse at what lies ahead.

Twenty-sixteen was a pivotal year for us. As you likely know, we opened the new, six-lane floating bridge last spring! More than 50,000 people – maybe you were one of them – helped us celebrate the historic occasion. In addition, our crews entered the home stretch on construction of a new West Approach Bridge North after completing all the foundation work. When this seismically stout span opens this year, it will extend three lanes of westbound traffic to Seattle's Montlake neighborhood. Also, the new, regional bicycle and pedestrian path will reach Montlake from the floating bridge. We expect the cross-lake path to be one of the best, most traveled bike routes in the state.

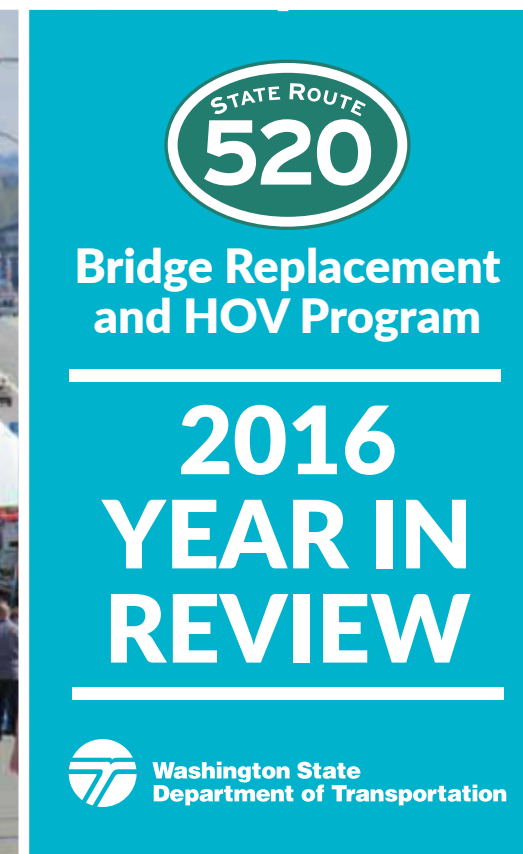
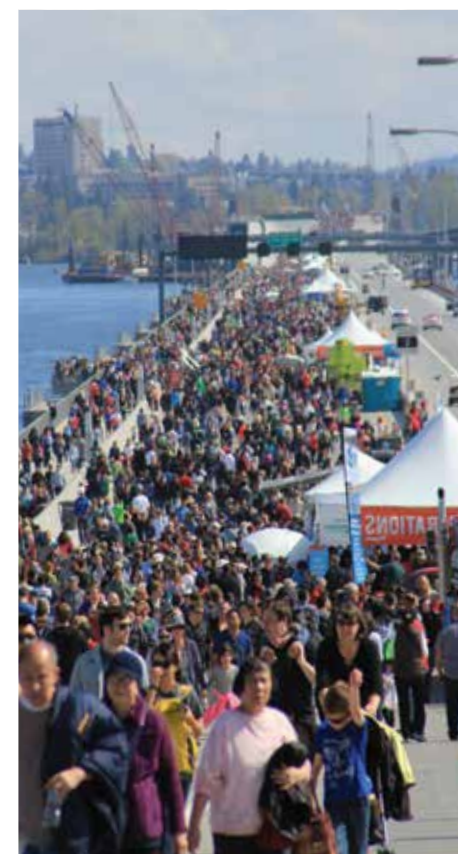
Our focus then turns to constructing the highway's remaining improvements in Seattle – what we call the "Rest of the West." We're preparing to start construction in 2018 on the first stage of this work, the Montlake Phase. A key element is replacing the old west approach bridge with a new structure that will carry three *eastbound* lanes of traffic from Montlake to the new floating bridge.

This mailer is just one of the ways we try to keep you informed about this important highway project. I hope you'll spend a few minutes reading what's inside. And on the flip side, you'll find ways to reach us or get more information about the project. Let us know if you have questions. We'll be sharing more news with you down the road.

Happy New Year!




Julie Meredith, P.E.
SR 520 Program Administrator

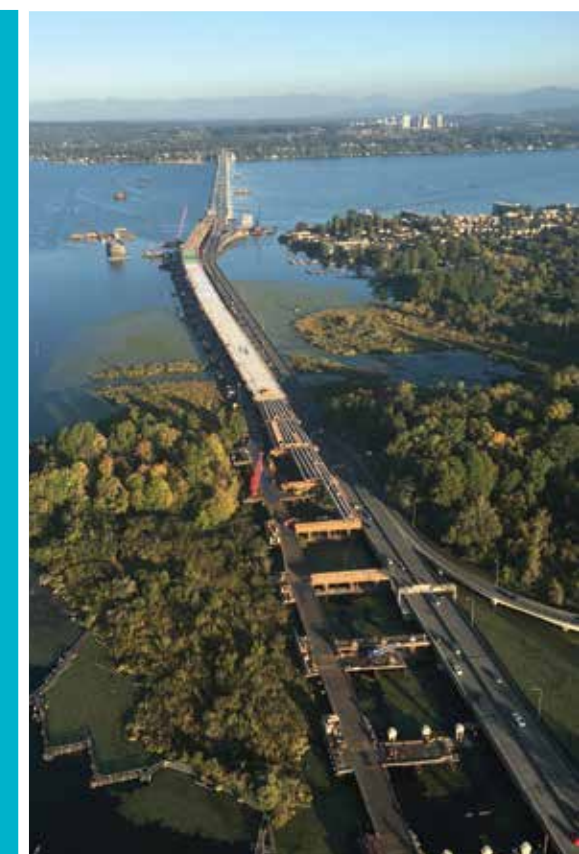


STATE ROUTE
520

**Bridge Replacement
and HOV Program**

**2016
YEAR IN
REVIEW**

 Washington State
Department of Transportation



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2016 Milestones



WINTER

JANUARY 2016

- A new westbound SR 520 off-ramp to East Lake Washington Boulevard opens, and demolition of the old westbound off-ramp through the Arboretum begins.
- WSDOT announces plans for a springtime public celebration to commemorate the upcoming completion of the new floating bridge.



SPRING

MARCH 2016

- Crews set the first of 353 girders for the West Approach Bridge North, which will link Seattle's Montlake neighborhood with the new floating bridge.

APRIL 2016

- More than 50,000 people participate in the new floating bridge's Grand Opening celebration on April 2-3. Gov. Jay Inslee cuts the ribbon as Guinness World Records declares the new span the world's longest floating bridge.



APRIL 2016

- Following the Grand Opening, the new floating bridge opens to traffic. The old floating bridge permanently closes.

MAY 2016

- Work begins on the Union Bay Natural Area Mitigation Project, a partnership between the University of Washington and WSDOT to create and enhance nearly 22 acres of wetlands.



SUMMER

JUNE 2016

- Crews begin removal of the old, structurally vulnerable floating bridge from Lake Washington. This includes removing the east and west steel trusses, and separating the first two of the bridge's 31 pontoons.

JULY 2016

- The first pontoon from the old bridge is towed off Lake Washington. All 31 of the old pontoons are being towed through the Ballard Locks and turned over to a third party for other marine uses around the world.



JULY 2016

- The bicycle and pedestrian path on the new floating bridge opens as an out-and-back trail from Medina. In 2017, the path will extend across Lake Washington to Montlake.

AUGUST 2016

- Fifty-six giant girders are barged through the Ballard Locks for placement on the West Approach Bridge North. Simultaneously, crews pour the last of 99 concrete shafts for the new bridge's foundation.



FALL

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Crews with the WABN project keep the momentum going, and pour concrete for the last of the 95 columns that will support the new bridge's roadway.

OCTOBER 2016

- The Puget Sound Regional Council gives the SR 520 Program a Vision 2040 Award for completion of the new floating bridge. The award recognizes innovative projects and programs that help ensure a sustainable future as the region grows.



WINTER

DECEMBER 2016

- The SR 520 team reaches thousands of community members in 2016, including:
 - More than 3,100 people who visited our nearly month-long online open house or attended our June "Rest of the West" open house in Seattle.
 - Twitter users, whose viewer "impressions" on our SR 520 Twitter account totaled 3.7 million.
 - More than 12,700 subscribers who received our frequent SR 520 email news updates.
 - More than 1,600 individuals who directly corresponded with us by phone or email.

SR 520: By the numbers in 2016

7,708.5 = world-record length, in feet, of **new floating bridge**

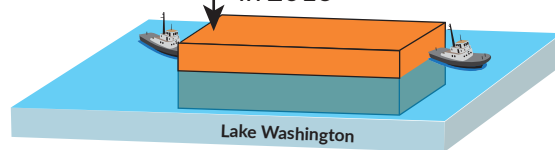
50,000 participants in floating-bridge grand opening



14 = width, in feet, of **bicycle/pedestrian path**

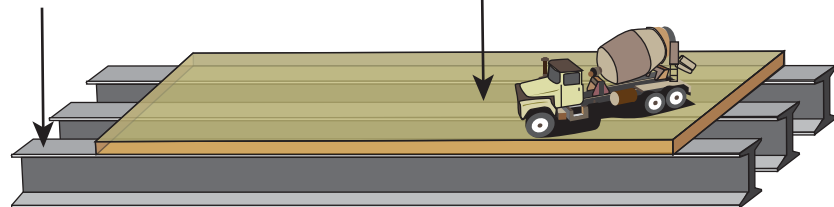


25 **old pontoons** towed from Lake Washington in 2016

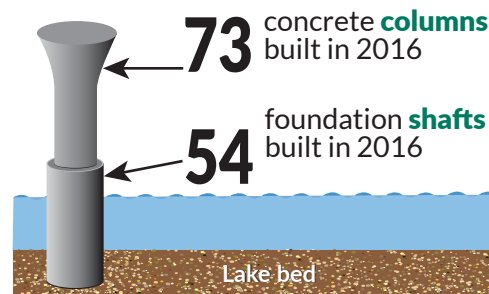


West Approach Bridge North

345 WABN **girders** installed in 2016



24 concrete **deck sections** poured in 2016



73 concrete **columns** built in 2016

54 foundation **shafts** built in 2016

What's next in 2017

Floating bridge: On Jan. 14, our crews towed the last of the old floating bridge's 31 pontoons from Lake Washington and, in February, they will complete the removal of the old bridge's fixed landings. Over the next few months, we will conduct some final system checks and adjustments to complete the commissioning of the new floating bridge.

West Approach Bridge North: Crews are working to complete this new bridge by midyear. Over the next several months, crews will finish pouring the 1.2-mile-long bridge's concrete deck, then grind, pave and stripe the roadway. Soon after the approach bridge opens for westbound traffic, SR 520's new bicycle and pedestrian path also will open and connect the trail from Montlake to Redmond.

Rest of the West: WSDOT received full funding in 2015 to complete the rest of SR 520's planned improvements in Seattle – the "Rest of the West." We're working in 2017 to hire a contractor for the first stage of this work, the Montlake Phase. This phase includes a new Montlake interchange and landscaped lid; a bike-pedestrian "land bridge" over SR 520 east of the lid; and a new West Approach Bridge South, for eastbound traffic. Montlake Phase construction will start in 2018. Other funded Seattle improvements, including a replacement Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke lid, will come later.



December 2016 view, looking west, of the West Approach Bridge North under construction.