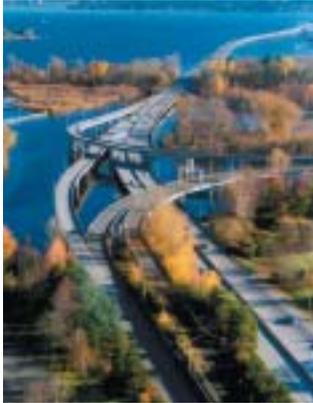


Environmental Improvements



Existing Environmental Condition

- **Stormwater** - Due to the age of the highway, much of the stormwater runoff from SR 520 currently drains untreated to adjacent lakes, streams, and wetlands.
- **Habitat** - SR 520 is built in or adjacent to sensitive areas, such as wetlands in the Washington Park Arboretum and Yarrow Bay, that provide habitat for ESA-listed salmon and other species.
- **Noise** - Noise levels in residential areas along much of SR 520 currently exceed federal and state criteria for noise.
- **Neighborhoods** - SR 520 cuts through a number of neighborhoods, creating a barrier to movement within the communities.

Benefits of New Construction

- **Stormwater** - Stormwater will be treated for both existing and new highway pavement and will meet the new stringent regulations.
- **Habitat** - WSDOT is working with all of the agencies that regulate aquatic resources to minimize the effects of the project on wetlands, streams, and Lake Washington. The new bridge will have fewer piers, the unused ramps near the Arboretum will be removed, and habitat for salmon will be enhanced.
- **Noise** - Sound walls will be built as part of the project, reducing noise levels substantially from current levels.
- **Neighborhoods** - Bike and pedestrian trails will connect from Montlake to Bellevue. The 6-lane plan includes five lids to provide enhanced connectivity for the Roanoke, Portage Bay, North Capitol Hill, Montlake, Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point and Yarrow Point neighborhoods.