



# Welcome

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We invite you to:

- Sign in.
- Collect handouts and view displays.
- Learn about WSDOT plans for SR 520 on the Eastside.
- Ask questions.
- Provide comments.

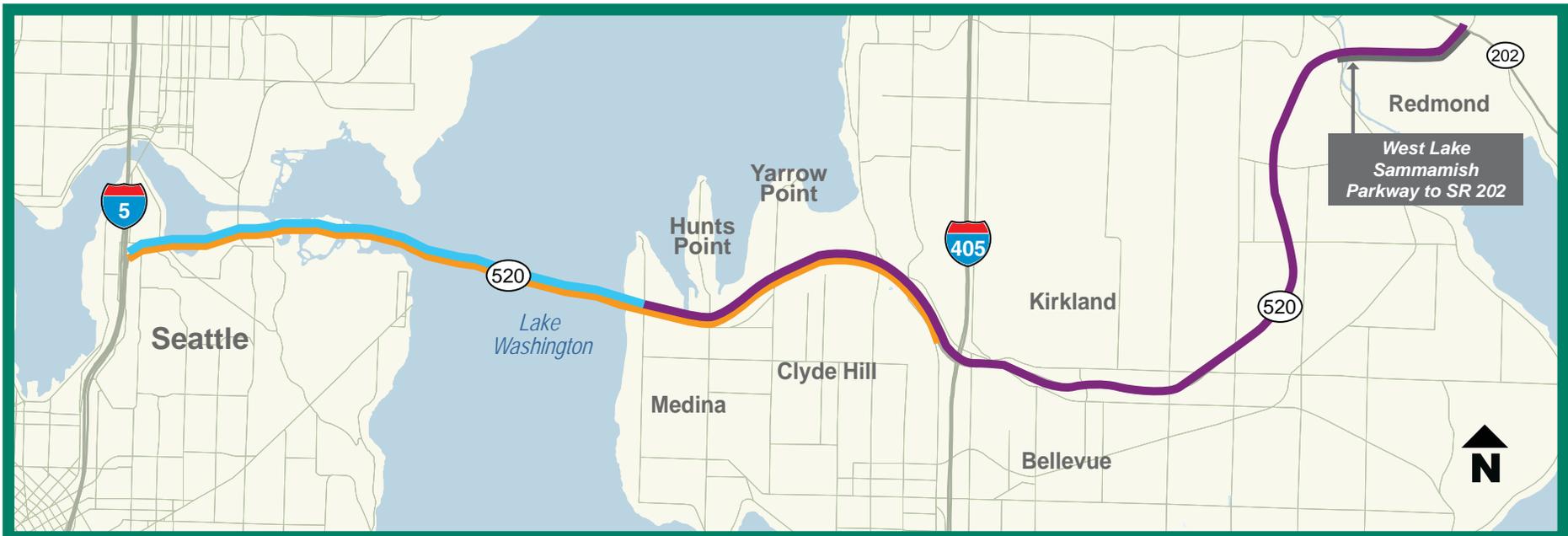


# Program Description

The SR 520 Corridor Program will replace the Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges and improve existing roadway between I-5 in Seattle and SR 202 on the Eastside.

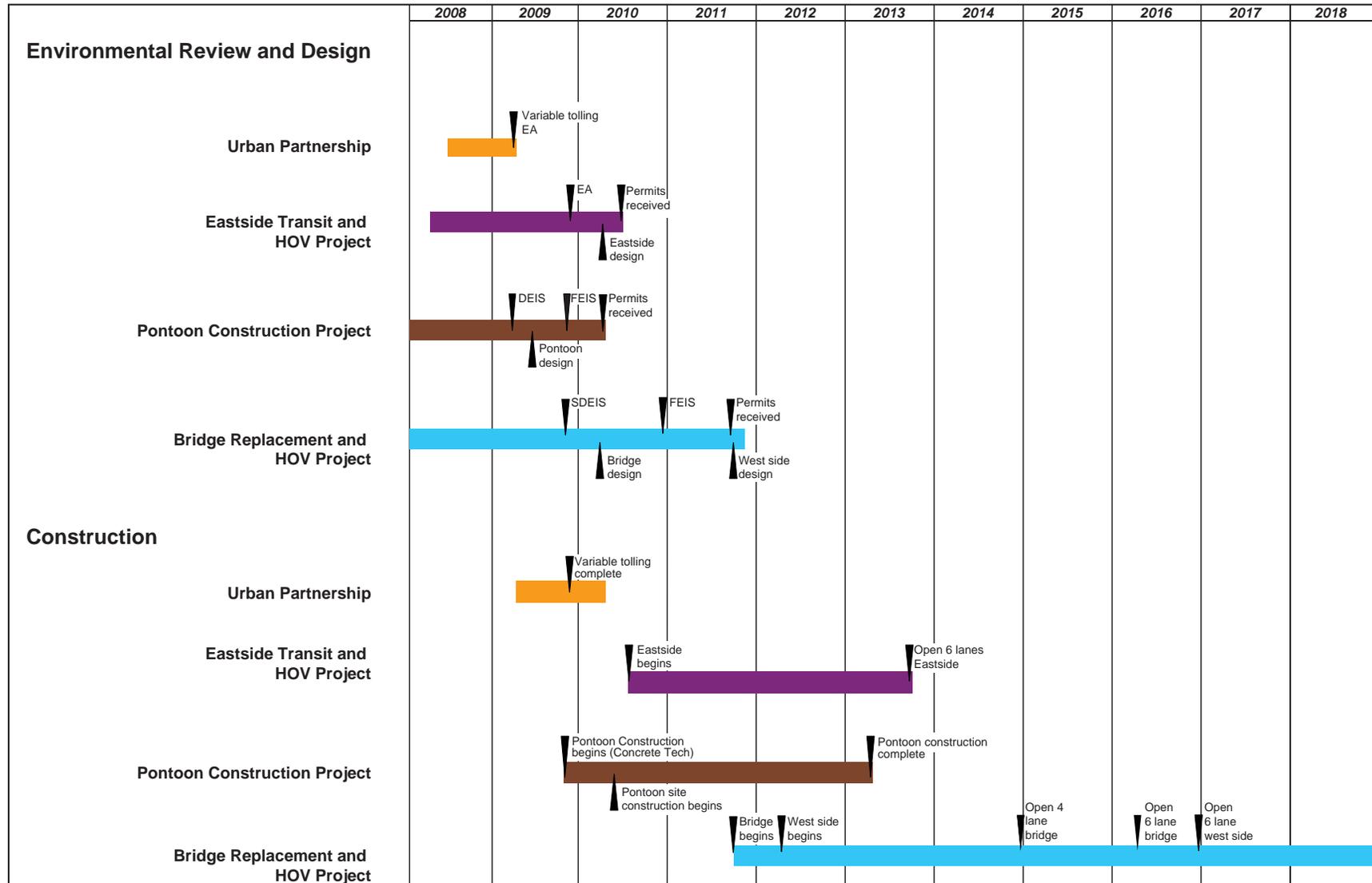
The SR 520 Corridor Program includes four projects:

- Urban Partnership** – congestion management tolling from I-5 to I-405.
- Eastside Transit and HOV** – Evergreen Point Road to SR 202.
- Pontoon Construction Project** – pontoons for catastrophic failure planning.
- Bridge Replacement and HOV Project** – I-5 to the vicinity of Evergreen Point Road.



Program area map.

# SR 520 Program Schedule



## Four Environmental Processes

**Urban Partnership Environmental Assessment** – study effects of tolling on SR 520 for congestion management.

**Eastside Transit and HOV Project Environmental Assessment** – evaluate improvements for transit and HOV from the vicinity of Evergreen Point Road to one mile beyond SR 202.

**Pontoon Construction Project Draft EIS** – evaluate options to expedite construction of pontoons to be used to restore the floating section of the SR 520 Evergreen Point Bridge in the event of a catastrophic failure, and to construct and store these pontoons until needed.

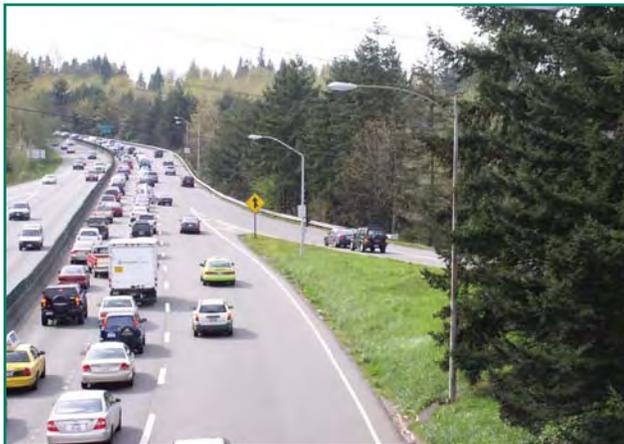
**Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Supplemental DEIS** – study new alternatives for the SR 520 west side interchange; construction techniques, staging and durations; and mitigation.



## Project Purpose

The purpose of the Eastside Transit and HOV Project is to:

- Reduce transit and HOV travel times.
- Enhance travel time reliability, mobility and access for transit and HOVs.
- Support transit demand and planned service improvements.
- Improve traffic safety in the SR 520 corridor.
- Support current and planned growth east of Lake Washington.



# Project Need: Support Eastside Growth

- Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond are rapidly growing communities.
- Employment in Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland is expected to increase by 90,000 jobs between 2000 and 2030.
- Major developments are planned along the SR 520 corridor. An additional 10,000 households and 12.5 million square feet of office/retail space are projected.

## Rapid Growth in Eastside Communities

### Population

| City     | Population 2007 | Projected Population 2030 | Projected Change |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Bellevue | 118,100         | 129,315                   | +9.5%            |
| Kirkland | 47,890          | 58,287                    | +21.7%           |
| Redmond  | 50,680          | 58,000                    | +14.4%           |

Source: Local comprehensive plans

### Employment

| City     | Jobs 2000 | Job Targets 2022 | Projected Change |
|----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| Bellevue | 118,690   | 170,000          | +43.2%           |
| Kirkland | 34,003    | 41,184           | +21.1%           |
| Redmond  | 72,919    | 106,000          | +45.4%           |

Source: Puget Sound Regional Council



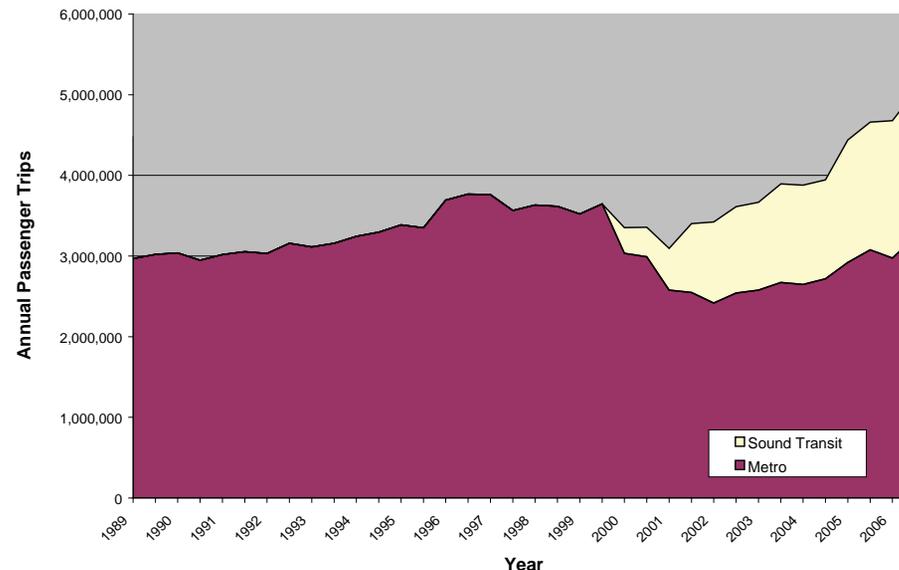
Eastside construction

## Project Need: Support Increased Transit Demand

### Transit use continues to increase on the Eastside:

- Since 2000, transit use has increased by 30 percent on the Eastside and by over 50 percent overall across SR 520.
- Transit routes on SR 520 carried 2.5 million more passengers per year in 2007 than 2001.
- Transit ridership is projected to increase by 35 percent due to potential tolling on the SR 520 bridge.
- Businesses are implementing private transit service to meet growing employee demand.

### Ridership on SR 520



Source: King County Metro

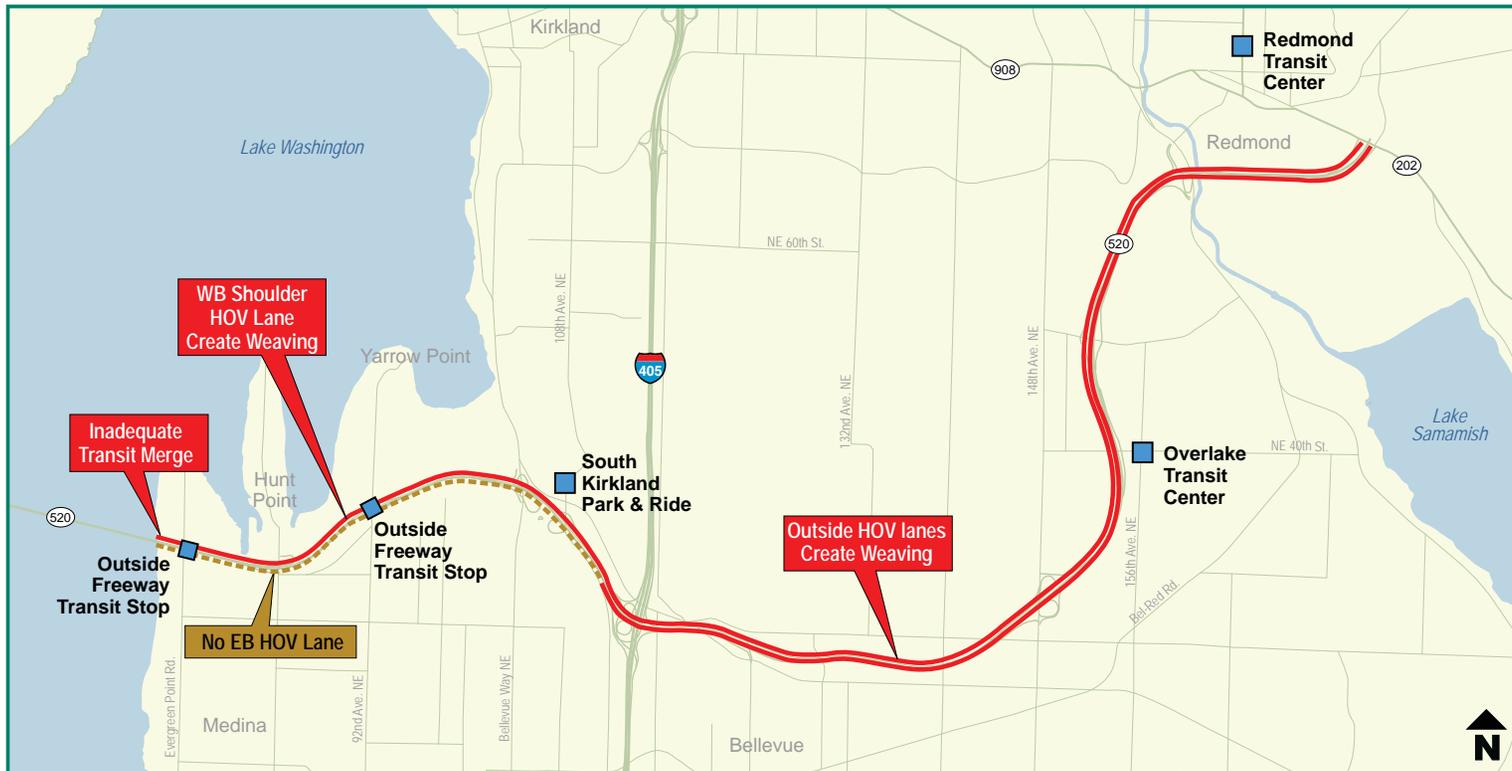
## Project Need: Improve Traffic Safety

### Traffic conflicts:

Outside HOV lanes create conflicts between slower-moving merging vehicles and faster-moving through vehicles.

### Accidents:

Over 380 accidents occurred between the 124th Avenue NE interchange and Evergreen Point Road during the past two years. Eight of them involved buses.



## Project Need: Improve Transit Reliability

### Congestion on SR 520 currently reduces transit reliability:

- Existing eastbound HOV system is discontinuous.
- Outside HOV lane creates congestion, delaying buses up to 25 minutes.
- Outside HOV lane does not meet current design standards.
- Lack of direct transit access to South Kirkland Park and Ride lot at 108th Avenue NE results in increased travel times.



# Project Need: Support Planned Transit Service Improvements

Transit agencies and local jurisdictions are planning transit improvement programs on the Eastside.

These programs include:

- Developing bus rapid transit (BRT) through the Eastside corridor under the SR 520 High Capacity Transit Plan, including increased ST Express service included in the Sound Transit 2 package on the 2008 ballot.
- Additional buses and expansions of the South Kirkland and Redmond Park and Ride lots through the Urban Partnership Agreement grant programs.
- King County Metro's Transit Now initiative to expand services in the Eastside corridor by 15 to 20 percent to meet demand.
- RapidRide BRT lines in Bellevue and Redmond.



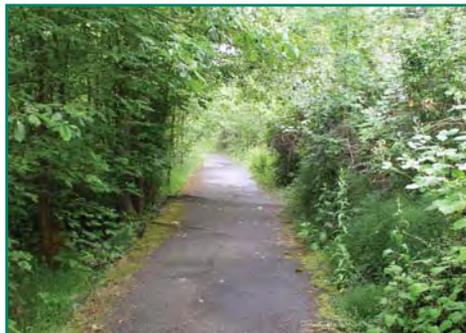
Transit Now map

## How will we protect the environment?

WSDOT is committed to designing, building and maintaining efficient transportation systems in an environmentally sensitive way. In accordance with federal and state requirements, and in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and Sound Transit, WSDOT is preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project.

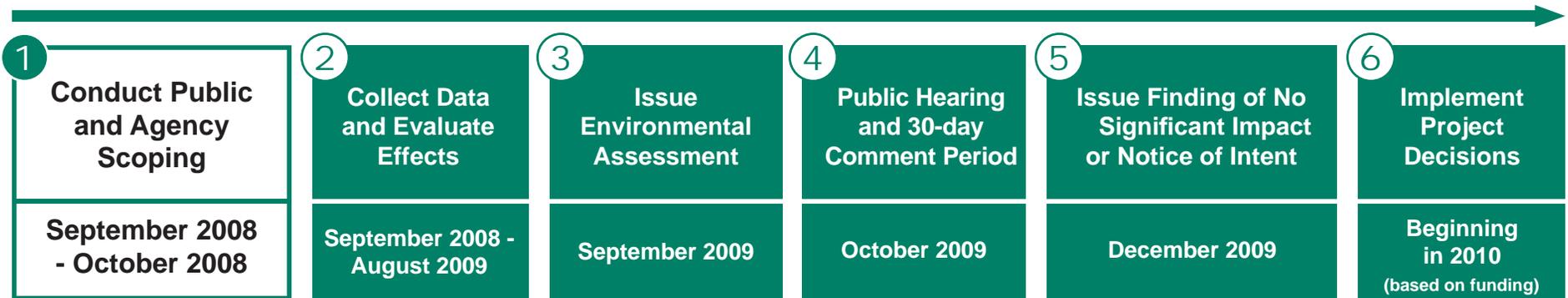
### During the environmental assessment planning process, the project team will:

- Identify the project's potential environmental effects.
- Evaluate ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate those effects.
- Coordinate with regulatory agencies to ensure statutory compliance.
- Involve the public and resource agencies to ensure an environmentally sound project.
- Incorporate and build upon other planning efforts and environmental studies related to the SR 520 corridor, including the 2006 SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

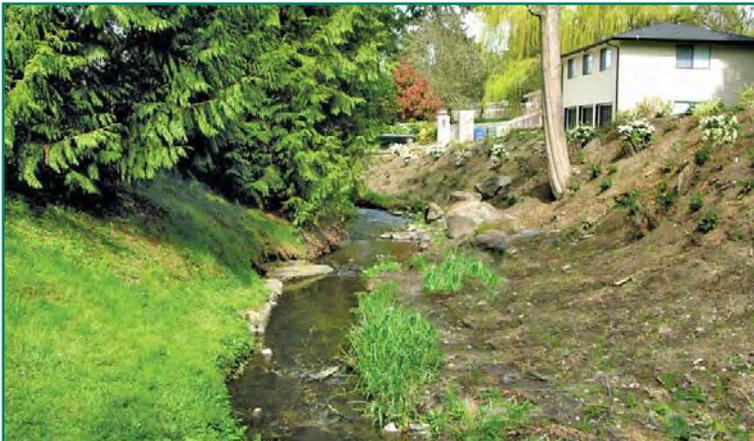


## Environmental Review Process

There are six milestones in the environmental review process:



● We are here



# What environmental topics will we study?

**We will evaluate the following topics during the environmental assessment process:**

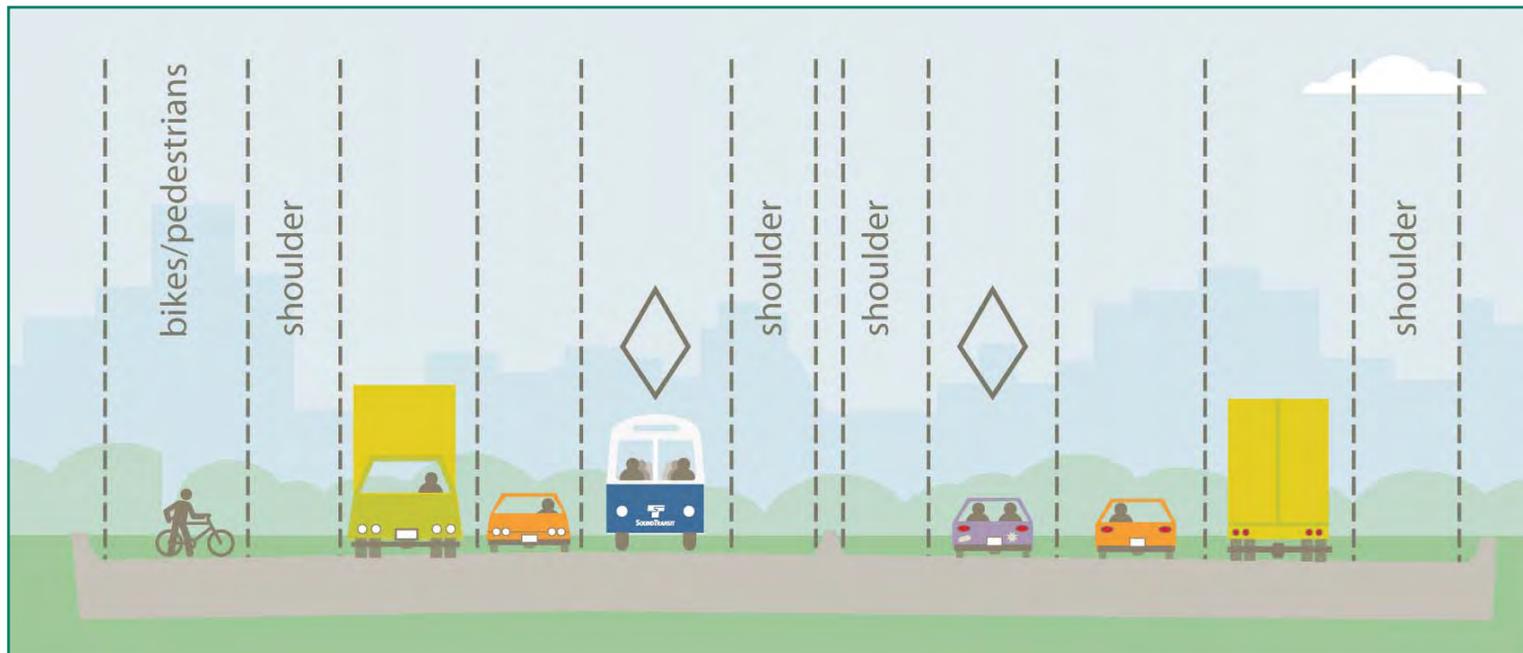
- Air quality
- Construction effects
- Economics
- Energy
- Environmental justice
- Fisheries
- Geology and soils
- Hazardous materials
- Historic, cultural and archaeological resources
- Indirect and cumulative effects
- Land use
- Noise
- Public services and utilities
- Recreation
- Social elements
- Transportation
- Tribal fisheries
- Visual quality
- Water resources
- Wetlands
- Wildlife



## Project Design

### The project design includes:

- Improvements to approximately 8.5 miles of SR 520 east of Lake Washington.
- Two general purpose lanes and one HOV lane in each direction (“4 + 2” configuration).
- A new bicycle/pedestrian path between Evergreen Point Road and 108th Avenue NE.



◇ = transit and carpool

4+2 configuration

# Project Elements

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Transit Improvements</b></p>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Completing the eastbound SR 520 HOV lane</b> from Lake Washington to the existing eastbound HOV lane west of the I-405 interchange.</li> <li>• <b>Restriping HOV lanes from the outside lanes to the inside lanes</b> from Lake Washington to SR 202.</li> <li>• <b>Building inside transit stops</b> at 92nd Ave NE and the vicinity of Evergreen Point Road.</li> <li>• <b>Constructing HOV direct access ramps</b> at 108th Ave NE.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Bike and Pedestrian Access</b></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adding a bike/pedestrian path</b> between 108th Avenue NE and Evergreen Point Road.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Stormwater Treatment and Fish Habitat</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Constructing a stormwater system</b> to improve water quality and reduce peak flows.</li> <li>• <b>Improving and enhancing stream habitat</b> by making culverts fish passable and realigning and daylighting Yarrow Creek, a salmon-bearing stream.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Noise</b></p>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Providing sound walls</b> between Evergreen Point Road and Bellevue Way.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Neighborhood Connectivity</b></p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building lids</b> at Evergreen Point Road, 84th and 92nd Avenue NE.</li> </ul>  |

## How to Provide Comments

### We want to hear from you!

#### Complete a comment sheet at the meeting.

- A comment sheet is included in your handout and can be placed in the comment box. Comment sheets are also located throughout the room.

#### Speak to the court reporter at the meeting.

- A court reporter is available to record your comments.

The EA will incorporate and build upon prior planning efforts and environmental studies related to SR 520. This will include reviewing input and suggestions provided by agencies, the public and other interested parties during the 2006 SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement process.

#### Send an e-mail.

- Submit your comments electronically:  
SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

#### Call the project hotline.

- To leave a verbal comment or question, call:  
1-888-520-NEWS

#### Mail comments.

- Mail comment sheets and correspondence to the following address:

SR 520 Eastside Transit and HOV Project  
Attn: Bill Blaylock  
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Please submit your scoping comments by October 24, 2008.**