

Attachment A

Scoping Materials and Notices

Tolling Environmental Assessment



Your input is needed!

The Washington State Department of Transportation has begun the scoping period for the Interstate 90 Tolling Environmental Assessment. The community can provide input throughout the scoping period (Jan. 22 – Feb. 22, 2013) on line or by mail, and in person during three scoping meetings held January 29, 30, and 31, as noted below.

Tolling on I-90 between I-5 and I-405 is needed to generate revenue to help complete the SR 520 program and to help alleviate congestion on I-90. Scoping is an opportunity to gather feedback that will shape the tolling study.

Please join us at any time during the public scoping meetings to learn more and tell us what you think.

Scoping Meeting Details

WSDOT will host three public scoping meetings to gather public input on this study:

Mercer Island

January 29, 2013

4 – 7 p.m.

Mercer Island Community Center

8236 Southeast 24th St.

Mercer Island, WA 98040

Bellevue

January 30, 2013

4 – 7 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Seattle

January 31, 2013

4 – 7 p.m.

Yesler Community Center

917 East Yesler Way

Seattle, WA 98122

We look forward to seeing you there!



By e-mail

i90EAcomments@wsdot.wa.gov

Jan. 22 – Feb. 22



In Person

Public Meetings

Jan. 29, 30, 31



By Mail

Angela Angove, I-90 Tolling Project

999 Third Ave., Suite 2200

Seattle, WA 98104

Jan. 22 – Feb. 22



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/i90

The public comment period ends on February 22, 2013

Evaluación Ambiental Del Peaje



Su opinión es necesaria!

El departamento de transporte de Washington (WSDOT) ha comenzado el periodo de la evaluación ambiental del peaje de la Interestatal 90. La comunidad puede aportar su opinión durante el periodo (22 enero-22 febrero, 2013), en línea o por correo, o en persona durante las tres reuniones que se celebrarán en enero de 29, 30, y 31, como se indica a continuación.

El peaje en la I-90 entre I-5 y I-405 es necesario para generar ingresos para ayudar a completar el programa de la SR 520 y para ayudar a aliviar la congestión en la I-90. Estas reuniones son una oportunidad para el intercambio de ideas que darán forma al estudio del peaje.

Por favor reúnanse con nosotros en cualquier momento durante las reuniones públicas para conocer más y decirnos lo que piensa.

WSDOT mantendrá tres reuniones públicas para recabar comentarios del público sobre este estudio:

Mercer Island

29 de enero 2013

4 a 7 p.m.

Mercer Island
Community Center
8236 Southeast 24th St.
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Bellevue

30 de enero 2013

4 a 7 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Ave. NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Seattle

31 de enero 2013

4 a 7 p.m.

Yesler Community
Center
917 Este Yesler Way
Seattle, WA 98122

Cómo hacer comentarios

En línea:

i90EAComments@wsdot.wa.gov
Enero 22 a febrero 22

En persona:

Reuniones públicas
Enero 29, 30, 31

Por correo:

Angela Angove, I-90 Tolling Project,
999 Third Ave., Suite 2200, Seattle, WA 98104
Enero 22 a febrero 22

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/i90>

El período de comentarios públicos termina el 22 de febrero 2013



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Información sobre el Acta de Americanos Discapacitados (ADA): Este material puede obtenerse en un formato alternativo enviando un correo electrónico a WSDOT Diversity/ADA Compliance Team a wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov o llamando gratuitamente al 855-362-4ADA (4232). Personas sordas o con dificultad de audición podrán hacer una solicitud llamando a Washington State Relay al 711.

付費 環境的 評估



您的意見是很重要！

華盛頓州運輸部已經開始收集90號州際公路收費通行費情況評估時期。各社區可以提供意見時期（1月23日 - 2月22日2013年）可在網上或通過郵件，或在2013年1月29日，30日和31日舉行的會議上，詳情可參照下列地址與時間提供意見。

在五號公路與90號和405公路之間的收入將完成 520公路的工程以舒緩90公路的交通擠塞。您的意見將作評估收費的研究。

請加入我們并在公眾聽證的會議上了瞭解更多的意見，並告訴我們你的想法。

WSDOT將為這項研究舉辦三個公開聽證的會議，以收集公眾意見：

Mercer Island
January 29, 2013
4 - 7 p.m.
Mercer Island
Community Center
8236 Southeast 24th St.
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Bellevue
January 30, 2013
4 - 7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Ave NE
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Seattle
January 31, 2013
4 - 7 p.m.
Yesler Community Center
917 East Yesler Way
Seattle, WA 98122



190EAcomments@wsdot.wa.gov
Jan. 22 - Feb. 22



Public Meetings
Jan. 29, 30, 31



Angela Angove, I-90 Tolling Project,
999 Third Ave, Suite 2200,
Seattle, WA 98104
Jan. 22 - Feb. 22

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/i90
The public comment period ends on February 22, 2013



Washington State
Department of Transportation

美國殘疾人法案 (ADA) 信息：這種材料可提供備用格式

通過電子郵件發送的WSDOT的多樣性/ ADA合規隊在wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov或致電免費電話855-362-4ADA (4232)。
失聰或有聽力障礙的人，可以請求致電華盛頓州繼電器711。

Плата за проезд – плата за защиту окружающей среды



Мы нуждаемся в Вашем мнении

Министерство транспорта штата Вашингтон (WSDOT) начало обсуждение проекта “Interstate 90 Tolling Environmental Assessment”.

Наше сообщество может внести свой вклад в это обсуждение (22 января - 22 февраля 2013) он-лайн или по почте, или лично, в течение трех обзорных совещаний, проводимых 29 января, 30 и 31, как указано ниже.

Плата за проезд (Tolling) на I-90 между I-5 и I-405 необходима для завершения реконструкции SR 520 и разгрузки движения на I-90.

Пожалуйста, присоединяйтесь к обсуждению. Это даст нам возможность узнать, что вы думаете об этом проекте.

Подробнее о предстоящих обсуждениях

WSDOT организует три обзорных совещания

Mercer Island

29 января, 2013

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Mercer Island

Community Center

8236 Southeast 24th St.

Mercer Island, WA 98040

Bellevue

30 января, 2013

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Seattle

31 января, 2013

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Yesler Community

Center

917 East Yesler Way

Seattle, WA 98122

Мы будем очень рады Вас видеть!



By e-mail

190EAcomments@wsdot.wa.gov
22 янв. - 22 фев.



In Person

Public Meetings
29, 30, 31 янв.



By Mail

Angela Angove, I-90 Tolling Project,
999 Third Ave, Suite 2200, Seattle, WA 98104
22 янв. - 22 фев.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/I90>

Прием комментариев заканчивается 22 февраля, 2013



Welcome!

I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment Scoping

Online Scoping



What is scoping?

- Opportunity to gather early feedback that will shape the project
- Helps determine range of issues
- WSDOT and FHWA review & consider your input:
 - purpose and need
 - range of concepts
 - potential issues and effects



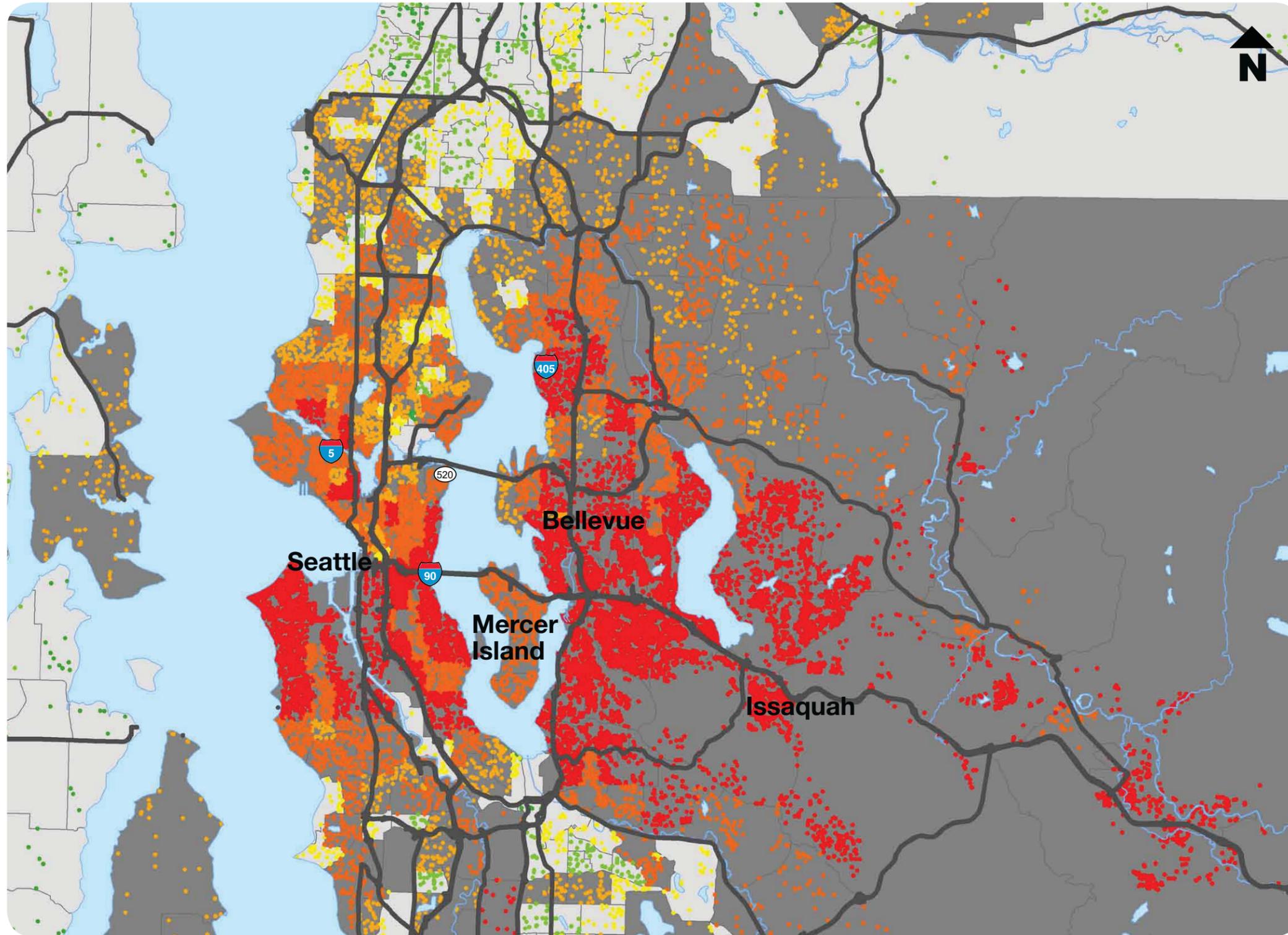


What is the purpose of a scoping meeting?

- Inform you about project, schedule, and environmental process
- Present draft design
- Listen to/hear public feedback on proposed project

How can you participate?

- Review exhibits and maps with program staff members
- Talk with project team members about the likely environmental effects associated with tolling on I-90
- Provide input into what should get studied in the NEPA Environmental Assessment for the project



Who uses I-90?

Legend

Where Users Come From

- More users
-
-
-
- Fewer users



What Happens Next?

EA Public Hearing	Nov. 2013
Environmental Decision	Early 2014
Toll Authorization Needed	2014
Toll Implementation	2015/2016



History of Tolling in the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor



Cross-Lake Washington Corridor

Tolling on I-90 has been discussed since 2006

Tolling I-90 was a recommended strategy of the 2008 SR 520 Toll Implementation Committee and the 2009 SR 520 Legislative Work Group -

both directed by the legislature to review toll implementation strategies. Additionally, the I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment complements WSDOT's I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Planning Study (2012), a strategy for transportation improvements east of I-405 along the I-90 corridor.

1999 – 2002	Trans-Lake Washington Study
2008 – 2009	SR 520 Toll Implementation Committee
2008 – 2012	I-90 Route Development Plan
2009	Seattle/Lake Washington Corridor Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA)
2012	I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Planning Study

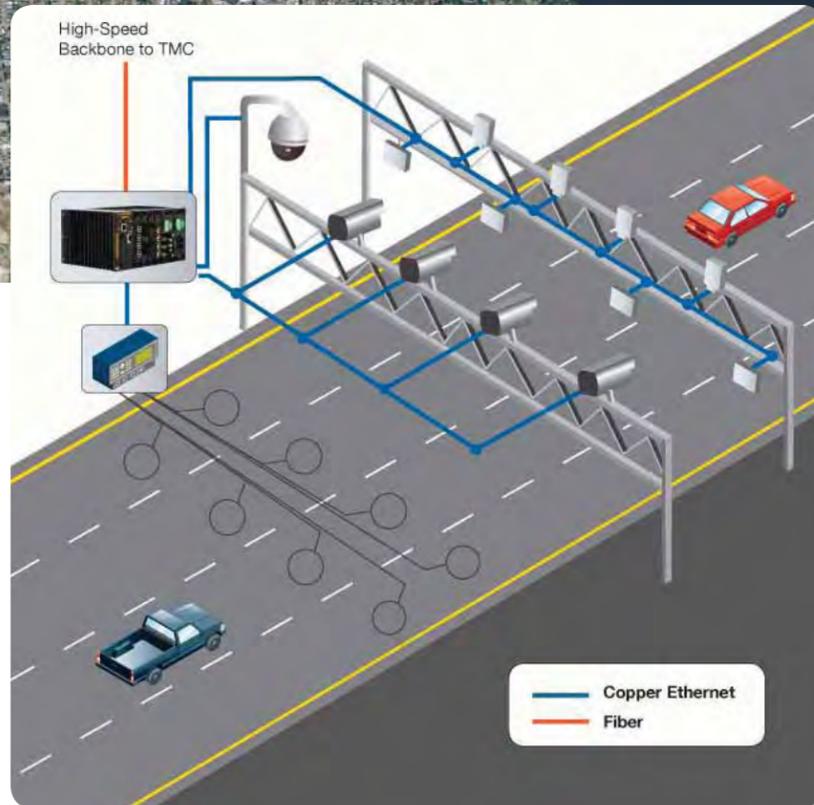
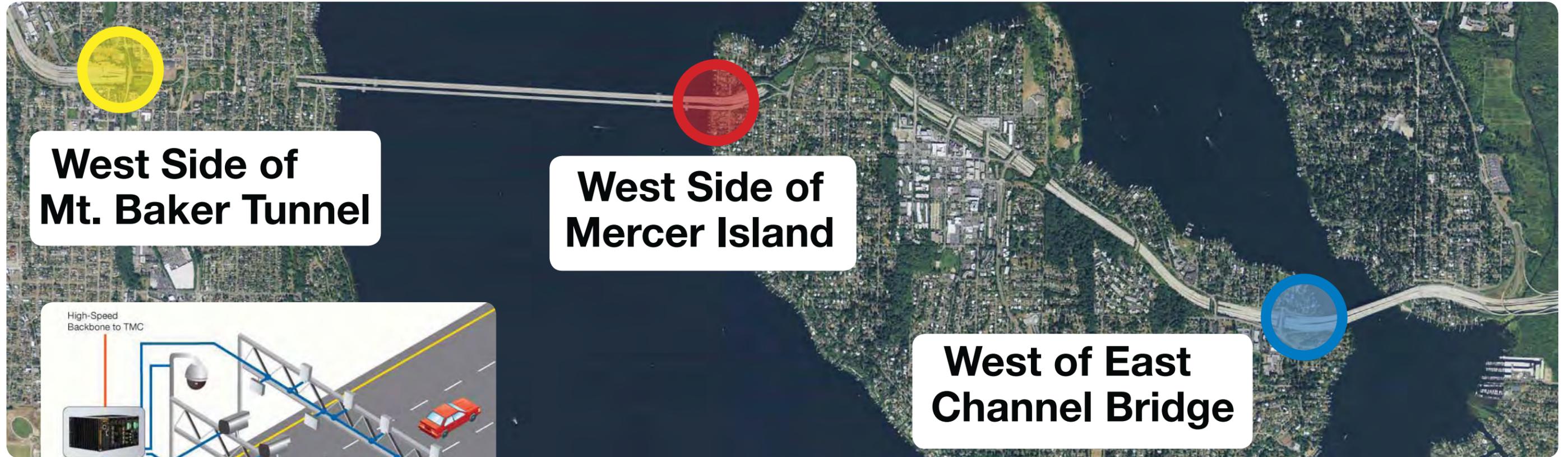


The environmental assessment meets the legislative intent of ESHB 2109 to:

"undertake a comprehensive environmental review of tolling Interstate 90 between Interstate 5 and Interstate 405 for the purposes of both managing traffic and providing funding for construction of the unfunded state route number 520 from Interstate 5 to Medina project. The environmental review must include significant outreach to potentially affected communities. The department may consider traffic management options that extend as far east as Issaquah."



What is the proposed project?



WSDOT will evaluate three different toll gantry locations between I-5 and I-405



What are the tolling options?

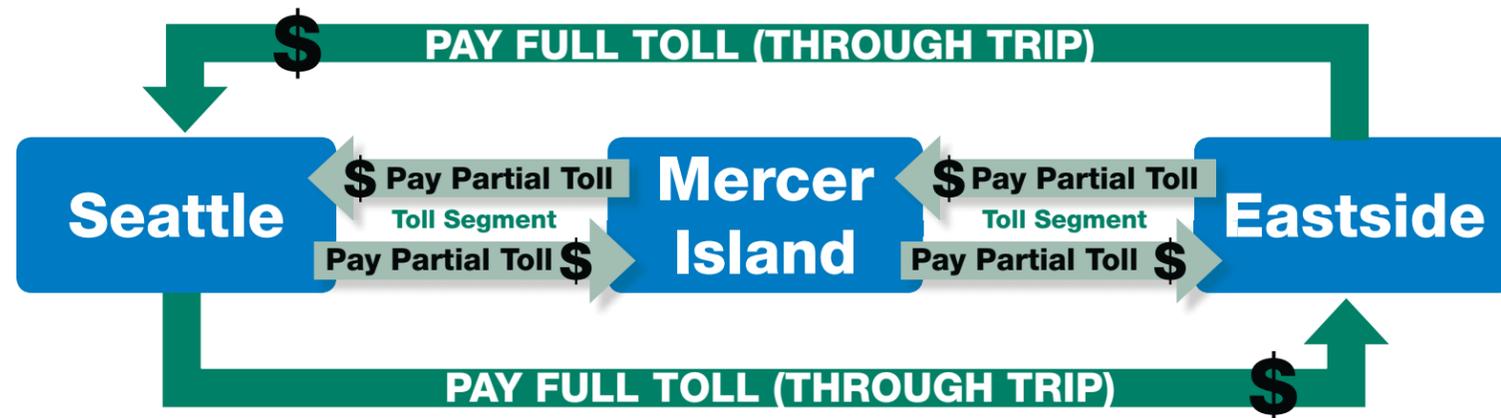
Multiple scenarios will be evaluated against no-action alternatives



Tolls collected between Seattle and Mercer Island



Tolls collected between Bellevue and Mercer Island



Partial tolls collected on trips within a segment (toll collected in both directions). Through trips would pay the full toll.

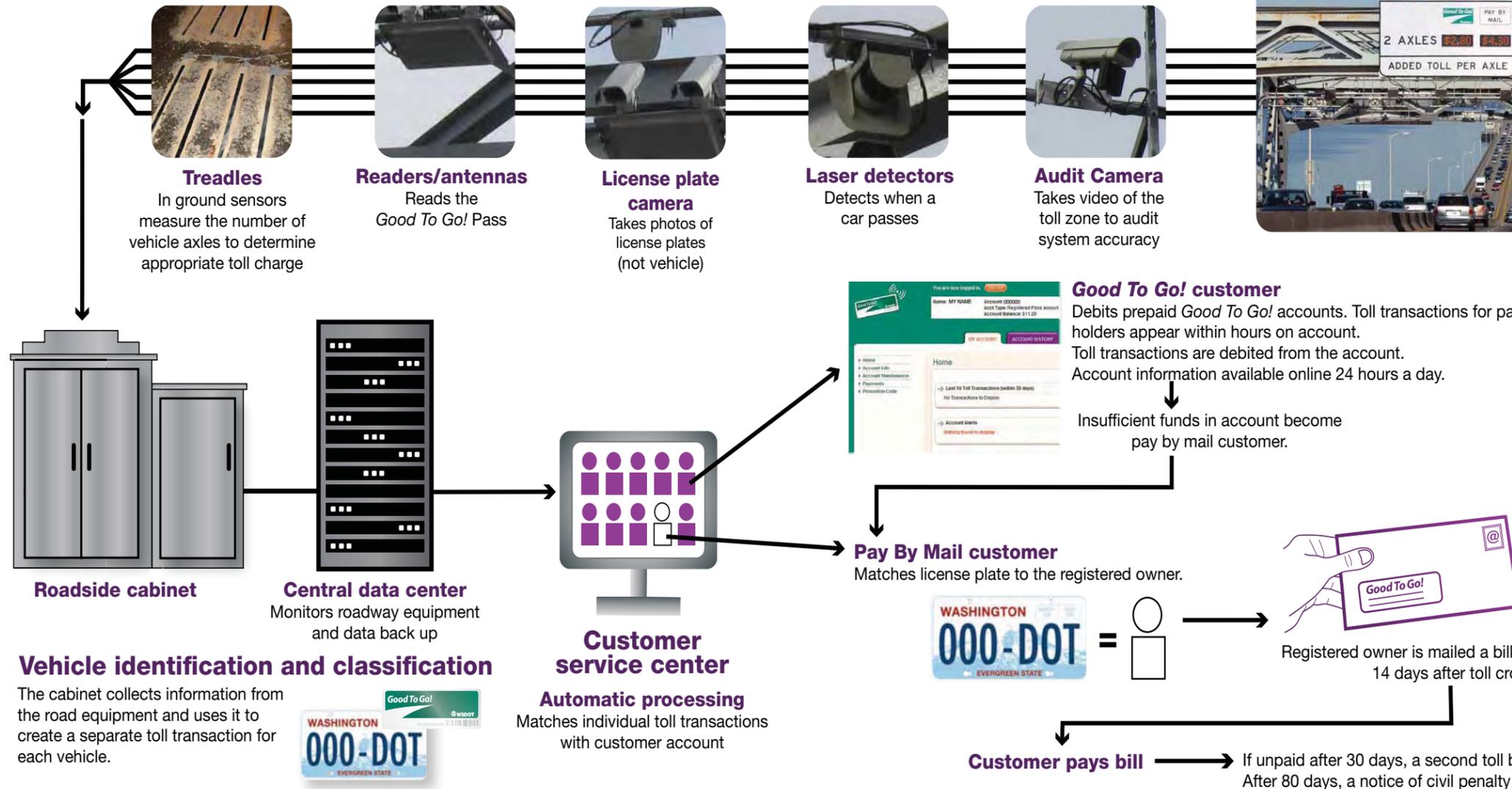


How would tolling work on I-90?

Electronic Tolling would be similar to SR 520

Roadway data collection

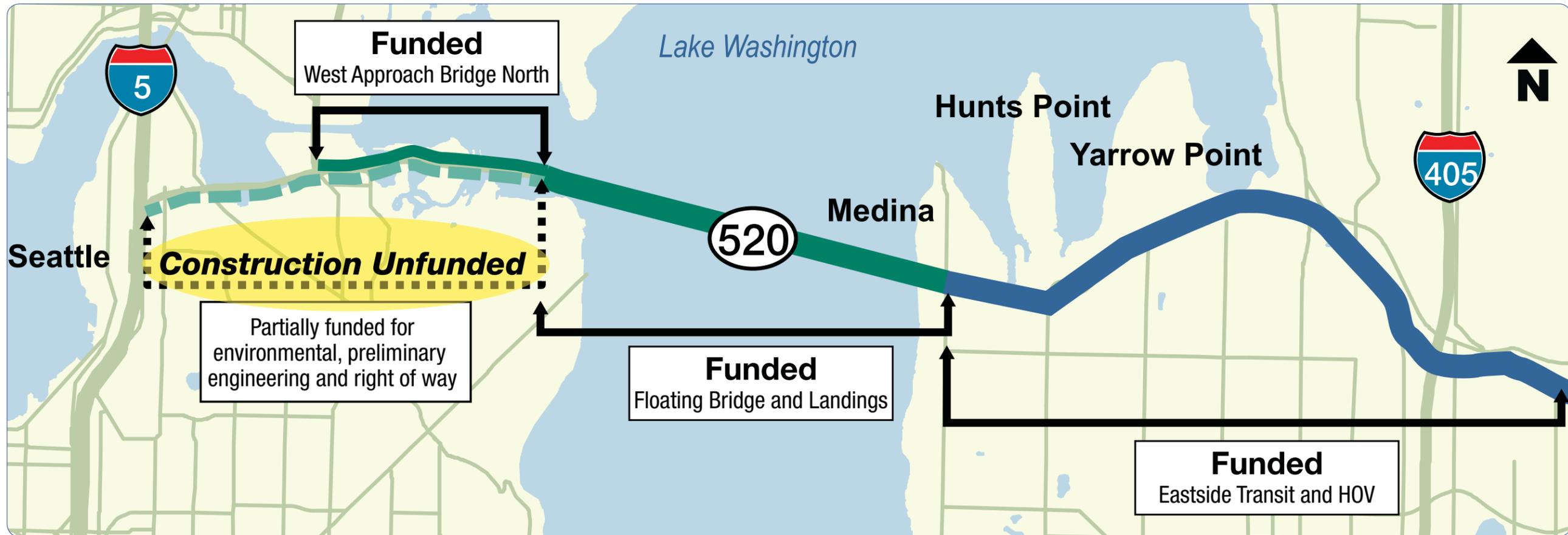
Road equipment collects data at highway speeds to create transactions for each vehicle that uses the SR 520 bridge every day.





What is the purpose?

The purpose of the I-90 Tolling Project is to raise revenue for substantial transportation improvements in the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor and to help alleviate congestion on I-90 between I-5 and I-405.





What are we planning to study?

Analysts will study the effects of the project alternatives on environmental resources. The EA will consider the relevant areas of the built, natural, and social environment. Areas of particular focus will likely include:

- Transportation
- Land Use/Economic
- Social/Environmental Justice
- Cultural/Historical Resources
- Visual Quality
- Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

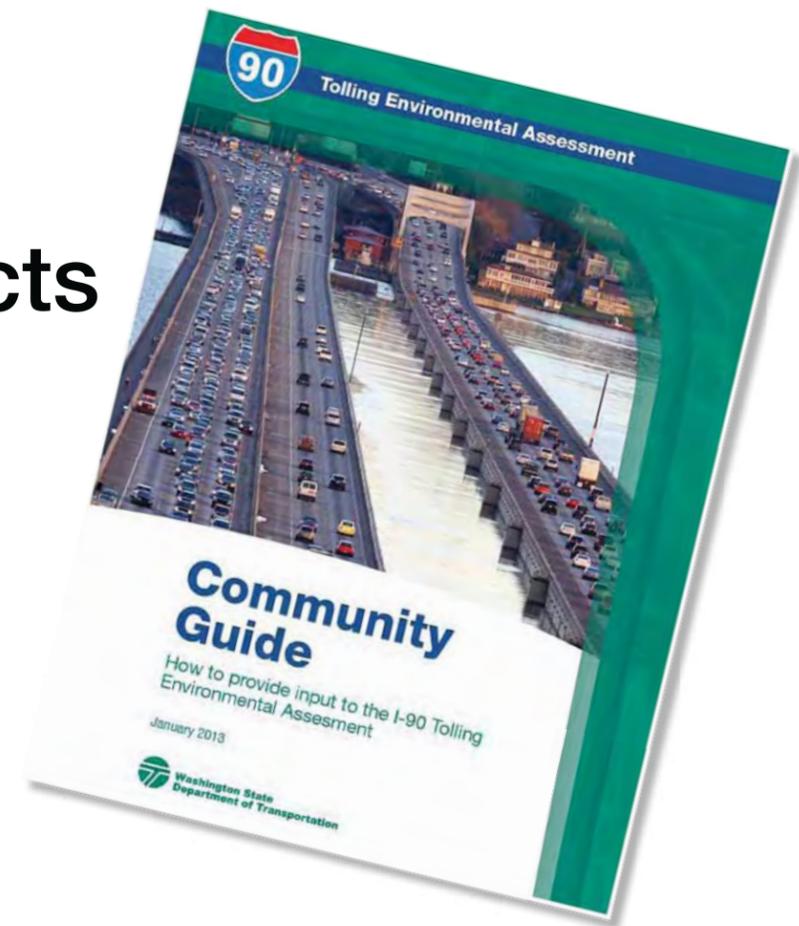




How can you comment on the scope?

As you're considering your scoping comments, remember that scoping is designed to gather input on:

- Purpose and Need
- Range of alternatives
- Effects on the environment and communities
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects of the project



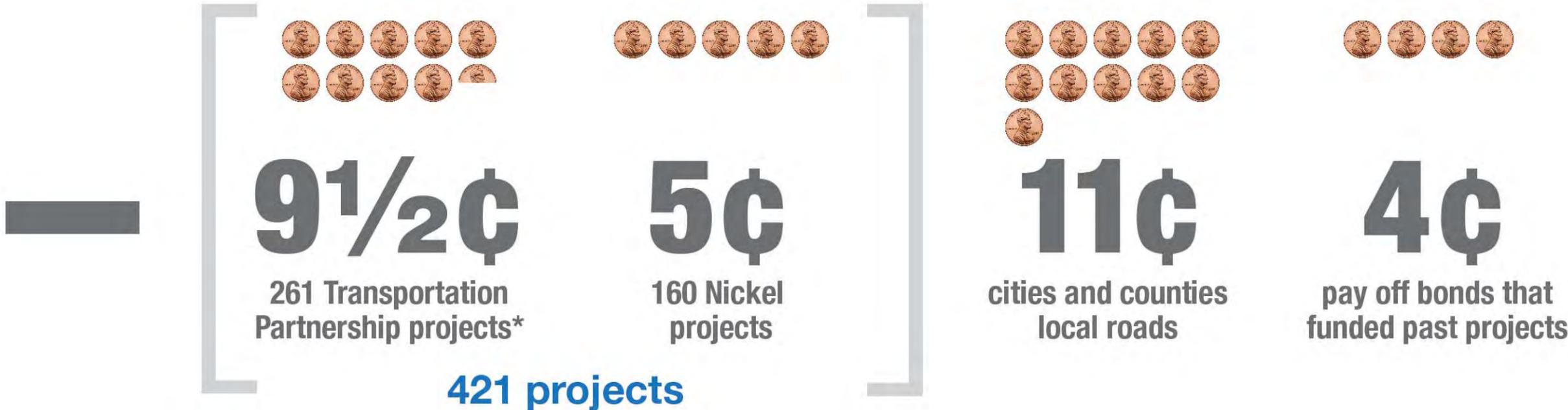


Costs and Funding for Replacing SR 520 Bridge

SR 520 program cost estimate		\$4.128 B
Funding received to date		\$2.724 B
State and local funding (Nickel and TPA)	\$0.55 B	
Federal funding	\$0.12 B	
SR 520 Account (tolling and future federal funds)	\$1.91 B	
Toll proceeds		
• TIFIA	\$300M	
• Triple pledge bonds	\$550M	
• First tier toll	\$159M	
• PAYGO	\$74M	
Federal proceeds		
• GARVEE	\$825M	
Deferred sales tax	\$0.14 B	
Unfunded need		\$1.404 B

Transportation fuel tax is limited and committed

37 1/2 ¢ per-gallon state fuel tax



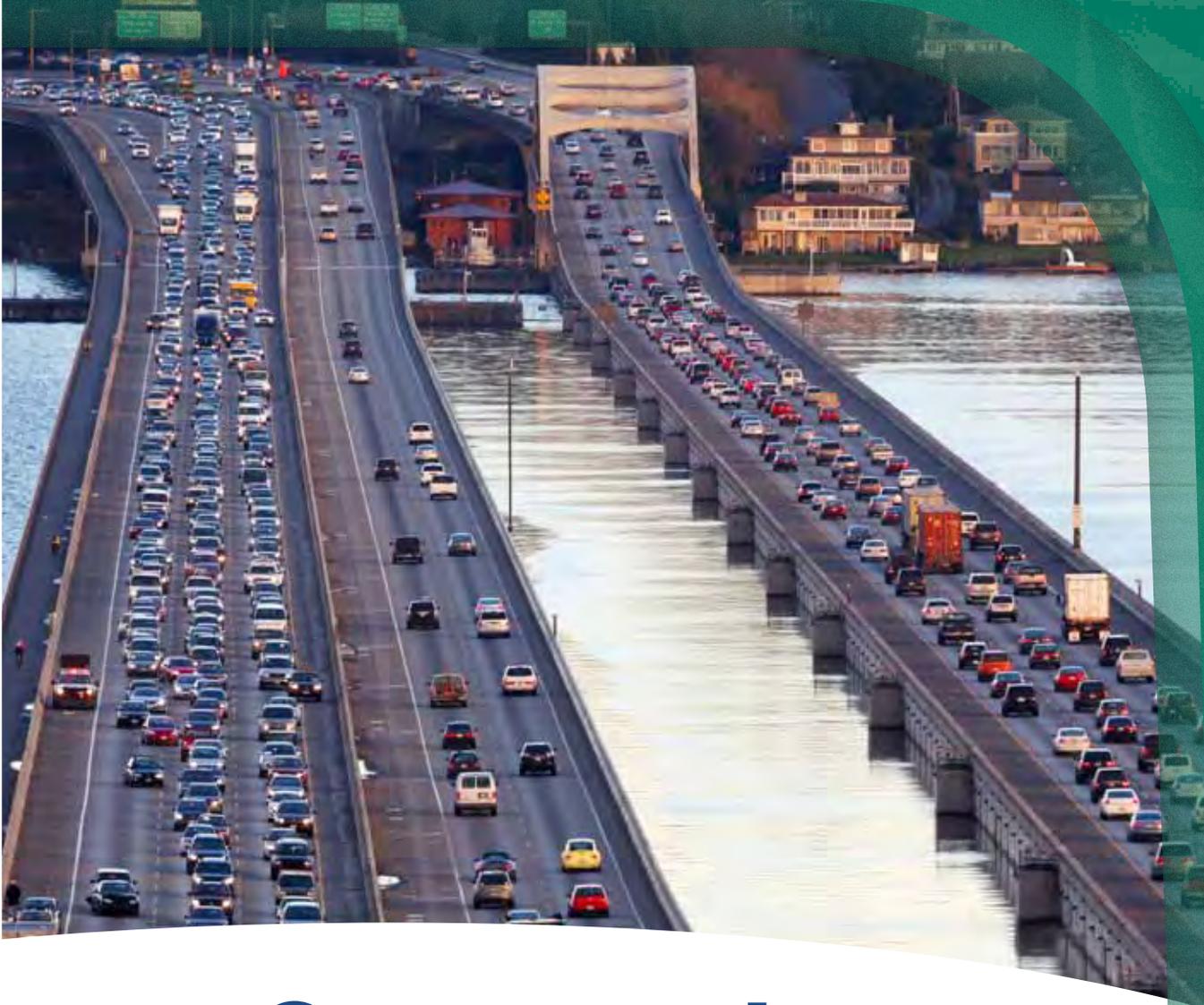
= 8 ¢ Available for use on state highways, bridges and ferries:

- maintenance and operations
- preservation
- safety improvements

* Of the 9 1/2 cents, 8 1/2 cents is used by the state for highway projects, 1 cent goes to cities and counties for street and road improvements.



Tolling Environmental Assessment



Community Guide

How to provide input to the I-90 Tolling
Environmental Assessment

January 2013



How to use this Community Guide

This Community Guide provides information and guidance on how to best provide meaningful and timely input to the I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment (EA). This guide provides background and information on the project and the schedule we are following to adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This guide includes

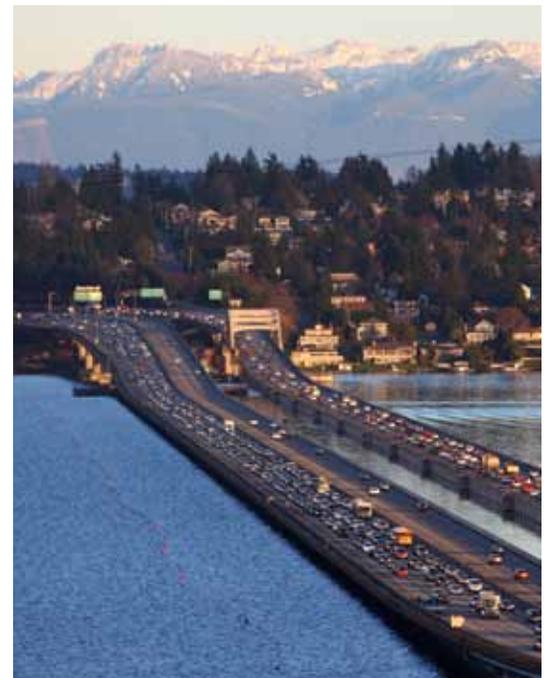
- How to use this Community Guide
- Project description, history, and background
- What is scoping?
- Why are we doing this Environmental Assessment?
- The proposed project Purpose and Need
- Schedule
- What else is happening in the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor?
- Technical terms
- How to get involved

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is preparing an EA that will evaluate the environmental effects of tolling on the I-90 corridor between I-5 and I-405 to raise needed revenue to complete the SR 520 program and to alleviate congestion on I-90. Drivers, commuters and communities are encouraged to get involved with the decision-making process by learning about the project and submitting comments at three public scoping meetings in January. An on-line public meeting will also be available during the scoping period between January 22 and February 22, 2013. Answers to frequently asked questions to help guide peoples' involvement are provided below:

What types of comments are most helpful during scoping? – During scoping we are looking for information that helps us form and complete our analysis. Comments that suggest sources or locations of information for our analysts to use (for example a vantage point for evaluating visual quality) or identify ways the analysis should be conducted (for example time periods to look at traffic diversion) are most helpful.

What can people comment on? – Prior to conducting our analysis, it is helpful to have the public comment on the subjects being studied in the EA (see page 2) and why we are doing this project (the Purpose and Need) stated on Page 3.

How will public comments be used? – WSDOT environmental analysts will use comments provided during the scoping period to prepare their work. Analysts may revise the scope of their work accordingly; for example, they may look at other locations, other data sources, or reach out to different stakeholders.



Project Description, History, and Background

What is the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor?

I-90 between Seattle and Issaquah and SR 520 between Seattle and Redmond are parallel facilities that serve as the two main routes for crossing Lake Washington. For many travelers they serve as alternative routes for one another and are referred to as the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor.

The operation of I-90 across Lake Washington, especially between Seattle and Bellevue, affects the operation of SR 520 and vice versa. Both highways have general purpose lanes in both directions. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are planned for SR 520 as part of the bridge replacement. I-90 also has reversible express lanes in the center roadway and an HOV lane in each direction between Mercer Island and I-405.



History of Tolling on the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor

In 2008 the Washington (WA) State Legislature charged the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee (with members from WSDOT, the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Washington State Transportation Commission) to look at tolling options on the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor including SR 520 and I-90. The Legislature established the SR 520 Legislative Workgroup under ESHB 2211. In 2009, the workgroup's charge was to review and recommend a financing strategy, in conjunction with WSDOT, to fund the projects in the SR 520 corridor that reflect the design options recommended by the workgroup. The financing strategy was to be based on a total cost of all the intended projects in the SR 520 corridor of no more than \$4.65 billion.

Legislative Direction for Tolling I-90

Tolling I-90 was identified as a potential strategy to fill the funding gap and complete the SR 520 connection to I-5, thus completing the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor. The Legislative Workgroup recommended to the governor and legislature a financing strategy that attempts to exhaust all other financing options prior to considering tolling I-90. Those options are listed below:

- Use of the base funding previously identified, including early tolling of SR 520 (prior to construction completion),
- The creation of, and early tolling of HOT lanes on I-90 as soon as is practicable,
- The funding gap to be filled by new federal or state revenue, to be identified in the next year or two, and
- ***If that doesn't happen, then general tolling of I-90 to fill the gap starting no sooner than 2014.***

Source: SR 520 Legislative Workgroup Recommendations Report, December 2009

I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment Underway

Tolling I-90 is being considered to fill the funding gap to complete the SR 520 program. Tolling alternatives are being developed and will be evaluated against no action alternatives, where I-90 operates as it does today. The tolling alternatives will include tolls collected electronically in both directions between I-5 and I-405. Like SR 520, WSDOT is evaluating all lanes being tolled, and tolls paid either by the *Good To Go!* pass or photo tolling will vary by time of day. Rates charged may be similar to SR 520, and will be determined by the Washington State Transportation Commission. Tolling could start as early as 2016.

What is Scoping?

Scoping is held early in the planning of a project and helps determine the “range” of issues to be studied under NEPA. During the scoping phase of the environmental process, WSDOT and The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will review and consider input to the draft purpose and need, the range of reasonable concepts for meeting the project purpose and need statement and the projects potential issues and effects.



By e-mail

i90EAcomments@wsdot.wa.gov
Jan. 22 – Feb. 22



In Person

Public Meetings
Jan. 29, 30, 31



By Mail

Angela Angove,
I-90 Tolling Project
999 Third Ave., Suite 2200
Seattle, WA 98104
Jan. 22 – Feb. 22

Scoping is an opportunity to gather feedback that will shape the project.

Members of the public, tribes, and other government agencies may offer comments throughout the scoping period (January 22 to February 22, 2013). A comment form is included in this guide for your use in providing comments.

Following scoping, the NEPA EA will present results of an in-depth analysis of the alternatives in relationship to key environmental resources. Environmental resources cover the built, natural, and social environments on topics such as transportation, air quality, and environmental justice. Public comments will help us identify the most important issues to consider as we evaluate the project alternatives. An additional comment period will follow the release of the EA. More information about how to get involved and provide comments is provided on the back cover.

What are We Studying in the EA?

Analysts will study the effects of the project alternatives in regard to a variety of environmental resource areas. Areas of particular focus will likely include:

- Transportation
- Land Use/Economic
- Cultural/Historic Resources
- Energy/Greenhouse Gases
- Social/Environmental Justice
- Air Quality

2013 Project Schedule of the NEPA Environmental Assessment

**PUBLIC
INPUT**

Scoping Period

Prepare Environmental Assessment

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUNE

Why are we doing this Environmental Assessment?



SR 520 is part of the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor. Toll revenue from I-90 would help complete construction of the corridor.

The Proposed Project Purpose and Need

Purpose of the I-90 Tolling Project

The purpose of the I-90 Tolling Project is to raise revenue for substantial transportation improvements in the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor and to help alleviate congestion on I-90 between I-5 and I-405.

Need for the I-90 Tolling Project

The movement of people and goods needs to be improved on both the I-90 corridor and the overall Cross-Lake Washington corridor. The following sections describe current and forecast future conditions in the corridor and demonstrate the need for tolling and congestion management.

- Raise Revenue for Cross-Lake Washington Corridor Improvements**

The tolling component of this project is needed to fund transportation improvements in the Cross-Lake

Washington Corridor. Revenues generated from tolling I-90 will make a major contribution for the portion of the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program that is currently unfunded.

- Alleviate Congestion on the I-90 corridor**

Current travel conditions in the I-90 corridor can be extremely congested, particularly during rush hour. With variable rate tolling on I-90 some travelers will likely make their trips outside of the peak periods to avoid paying higher tolls which would redistribute some trips on the I-90 corridor and help reduce peak period congestion.

- Accommodate Regional Growth**

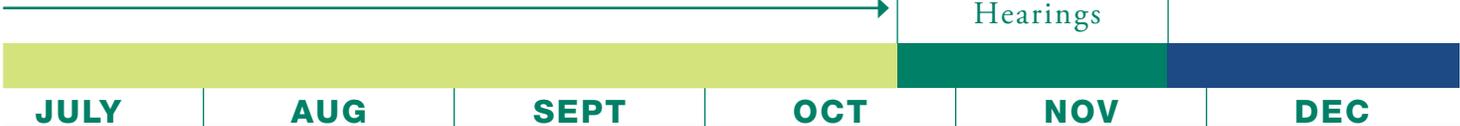
Long-term forecasts for growth in the region show continued steady increases in population and employment. Regional forecasts

anticipate the population of King County to increase from just under 2 million in 2010 to over 2.56 million in 2040 while jobs increase from about 1.2 million to about 1.8 million jobs for the same time period. Much of this growth is expected to occur in Seattle and the eastside of Lake Washington. By reducing congestion during peak periods tolling on I-90 may improve overall throughput.

- Provide Reliable Travel Conditions in the I-90 Corridor**

Two of the most substantial outcomes of severely congested traffic conditions are increased travel time and reduced reliability. With heavily congested conditions, the difference in travel times between non-peak periods and peak periods increases. The heavily congested conditions also mean it is more difficult for motorists to maneuver and change lanes, which can result in crashes or near misses between vehicles.

The full text of the project purpose and need can be found on the project website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/tolling/i90





Electronic Tolling is being used on the SR 520 bridge. There are no toll booths, tolls are collected through a Good to Go! Pass or through photo tolling. Tolls change by time of day.

What else is happening in the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor?

In the I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment we will evaluate tolling alternatives against no action alternatives, where I-90 would operate as it does today. Tolling scenarios are still being developed and will include: tolling gantries where tolls are electronically collected in both directions between I-5 and I-405. Like SR 520, we are evaluating all lanes being tolled, and tolls paid either by the *Good To Go!* pass or photo tolling. Rates charged may be similar to SR 520, and will be determined by the Washington State Transportation Commission. Tolling could start as early as 2016.

I-90 Two Way Transit Project

WSDOT and Sound Transit are adding high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to the outer roadways (existing general purpose lanes) in both directions of I-90 between Seattle and Bellevue by restriping the bridges. The first stages have completed HOV lanes from Bellevue to Mercer Island. The last stage (Stage 3) will extend the HOV lanes from Mercer Island to Seattle and is currently in design. Construction of the lanes is expected to be complete by 2016.

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i90/TwoWayTransit/



Tolling on I-90 is consistent with the state's Moving Washington strategy. See www.wsdot.wa.gov/movingWashington/

East Link Light Rail Extension to Redmond

Sound Transit is extending its Link Light Rail service from downtown Seattle to the Overlake area in Redmond connecting Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond. The project follows the I-90 corridor utilizing the center roadway. The project is currently in design and will start construction in 2015. Construction is expected to be completed by 2022 with service starting in 2023.

<http://projects.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>

I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Planning Study

This I-90 planning process was undertaken by WSDOT and corridor communities to gather information to determine if improvements are needed to meet existing and future transportation needs. The corridor report for I-90 provides WSDOT and communities along the corridor with a list of safety and mobility

improvements that could be implemented over the next 20 years if funding becomes available. A report documenting the study was completed December 2012.

www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/RDP/i90/EastgateTo465th

SR 520 Bridge Replacement

There are two projects currently under construction on SR 520. The SR 520 Floating Bridge and Landings Construction is underway to replace the vulnerable SR 520 floating bridge and adds HOV lanes and bike lanes across Lake Washington. The project is expected to be open to drivers in 2014.

The other project on SR 520 is from Medina to SR 202. The Eastside Transit and HOV Project will complete and improve the 8.8-mile HOV system from Evergreen Point Road to the SR 202 interchange. The improved six-lane corridor is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion by 2013.

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr520bridge

Technical Terms

NEPA TERMS

NEPA – A study guided by the National Environmental Policy Act triggered for projects on the Interstate or using Federal funds. Federal legislation that contains procedures to ensure that federal agency decision-makers take environmental factors into account.

Environmental Justice – An Executive Order which

states that federal activities, programs and policies should not produce disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations.

Environmental Assessment – An environmental assessment is a study required to establish any influences either positive or negative about a potential project. The end result will be a report that consists of technical evaluation, economic impact and social results that a project might bring.

TOLLING TERMS

Traffic Management – Strategies for improving flow of traffic. Strategies include ramp metering, active traffic management and tolling.

Active Traffic Management – Use of technology to increase the flow of traffic including variable speed limits (on overhead gantries), surveillance, variable message signs and ramp metering.

Electronic Tolling – Collection of tolls without use of toll booths. Instead, tolls are collected by overhead devices reading transponders in vehicles where tolls are deducted from preset accounts or through photo tolling where vehicle owners are billed.

Photo tolling – Collection of tolls using an overhead device that takes a picture of a vehicle's license plates. Tolls are collected by sending a bill by mail. Drivers are charged a higher rate for photo tolling to offset administrative costs.

HOT Lanes – High occupancy/toll lanes (HOT lanes) are a road pricing approach that give motorists in single-occupant vehicles access to a high-occupancy vehicle lane (or "HOV lane"). Tolls are collected for the use of those lanes exclusively, often using electronic toll collection systems. (Example: SR 167)

Express Toll Lanes – Express toll lanes (ETLs) are similar to HOT lanes, but often include a double tolled lane

to further manage congestion. The I-405 corridor will feature express toll lanes from Bellevue to Lynnwood. The Washington State Transportation Commission will ultimately decide on policies such as whether the lanes will be open without a toll to motorcycles, vehicles with two or more occupants, vehicles with three or more occupants, or a combination depending on the time of day. We are also considering the possibility of offering a discounted toll rate for carpools. This decision will be made prior to the lanes opening in late 2015. (Example: Potentially I-405)

Mainline Tolling – Motorists either pay a toll on entry or exit. All lanes are tolled.

Single Point Tolling – Places toll fee collection at a single point on the roadway; drivers passing this single point will incur the entire toll fee. (Example: SR 520)

Variable Rate Tolling – Varying the toll rate based on the time of day. For example, a higher toll rate is often charged at peak time and discounted tolls during off-peak time. (Example: SR 520)

Dynamic Tolling – Charging tolls based on traffic congestion conditions throughout the day, regardless of time of day as a strategy for managing congestion. (Example: SR 167 HOT Lanes)

Fixed Tolling – Charging the same toll amount regardless of time of day and level of congestion. (Example: Tacoma Narrows Bridge)

Tolling I-90 is not a new idea

Tolling I-90 was a recommended strategy of the 2008 SR 520 Toll Implementation Committee (with members from WSDOT, the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Washington State Transportation Commission) and the 2009 SR 520 Legislative Workgroup – both directed by the legislature to review toll implementation strategies. Additionally, the I-90 Tolling EA complements WSDOT's I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Planning Study (2012), a strategy for transportation improvements east of I-405 along the I-90 corridor.



How to get involved

Project scoping is an ideal time to provide input to the Environmental Assessment process. The EA scoping period runs from January 22 through February 22, 2013; however community input is always welcome throughout the life of the project. Different options for the community to provide feedback are shown below:



By e-mail

i90EAccomments@wsdot.wa.gov
Jan. 22 – Feb. 22



In Person

Public Meetings
Jan. 29, 30, 31



By Mail

Angela Angove, I-90 Tolling Project
999 Third Ave., Suite 2200
Seattle, WA 98104
Jan. 22 – Feb. 22

Contact:

Michell Mouton, WSDOT Communication
moutonm@wsdot.wa.gov 206-464-1249
www.wsdot.wa.gov/tolling/i90

Public Scoping Meetings are scheduled:

Mercer Island
January 29, 4-7PM
Mercer Island
Community Center
8236 SE 24th Street

Bellevue
January 30, 4-7PM
Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Avenue NE

Seattle
January 31, 4-7PM
Yesler Community Center
917 E Yesler Way

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**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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Happy Hour M-F 3:00-6:00

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Capitol Hill Housing to create affordable apartment building

By CHS Staff Views (48) | Comments (1)

Call it gentrification if you like. But change at 23rd and Union continues. Wednesday afternoon, **Capitol Hill Housing** announced that it has tentatively agreed to acquire the KeyBank building at the intersection with plans to build a mixed-use affordable housing project.

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KeyBank at 23rd/Union to be redeveloped as affordable housing

There is more change coming for 23rd and Union. The KeyBank building at the intersection is being acquired by nonprofit developer Capitol Hill Housing and will be redeveloped as "mixed-use and affordable housing," according to the announcement sent out Wednesday afternoon and posted below.

The bank will continue to operate into April before operations are consolidated at other area branches, according to the announcement.

A bank has operated at the site for decades including the Liberty Bank, started in 1968 as a black-owned bank, more...

The nonprofit Capitol Hill Housing develops and operates apartment buildings across Capitol Hill and Seattle. Its most recent project — **The Jefferson** at 12th and Jefferson — opened last fall. Its 40 one and two-bedroom apartments are designated affordable — "for workers earning up to \$36,000 for a single person or \$41,000 for a two-person family (60% of the median income)." The developer's next big effort will be the **12th Ave Arts** building on Capitol Hill that will transform the current East Precinct parking lot into an apartment and office building with a theater facility — and parking for SPD.



Melrose Promenade, Gay City audit Capitol Hill

By TomM Views (54) | Comments (1)

Let us begin with inspiration. The group

building is ready to take shape and take its turn in the Seattle design review process.

Permalink | Posted 8 hours ago | more News, etc.



Plans for the Mercedes dealership property on E Pike



Capitol Hill food+drink | The Old Sage ready to waft onto 12th Ave

By jseattle Views (187) | Comments (2)

Got a tip? Let it rip

- Despite his latest Facebook profile pic, chef Brian McCracken is not blowing smoke.

"The Old Sage is a little more of a fun hangout," the co-creator of Tavern Law and part of the McCracken Tough partnership behind Seattle's Spur and The Coterie Room tells CHS about their new bar being planned just a few doors down 12th Ave from the duo's original Capitol Hill creation.... (more)

Permalink | Posted 1 day ago | more Food & Drink

Another gunpoint robbery reported near Capitol Hill's Meany campus

By jseattle Views (496) | Comments (2)

There has been another gunpoint robbery reported in the area around the Meany school campus at 19th and John on Monday, police were called to the area after a man said he was held up by a male with a silver handgun just before 4p.

According to the report on the incident, the victim told police he was walking near 21st and E John when the suspect came up to him brandishing a silver pistol and demanding... (more)

Permalink | Posted 1 day ago | more Crime



Pike and Broadway first choice for Capitol Hill rainbow crosswalk

By jseattle Views (198) | Comments (7)

It was the lead story on the front page of the Seattle Gay News last week. The final vote has been tallied for a project to create a rainbow-colored crosswalk celebrating... (more)

Permalink | Posted 1 day ago | more News, etc.

CHS Weather

Capitol Hill Seattle, WA

44.0°F
NE 0.0 mph

Weather Underground

Latest CHS weather coverage

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- g Hill traffic cams
- g City Winter Storm Info
- g Seattle SnowWatch
- g Twitter updates

Elliott Bay Book Co. @ElliottBayBooks

We had a great time participating in last year's World Book Night giveaway. Won't you join us this year? Find out... fb.me/BowieBue

Retweeted by jseattle

Tweet to @jseattle

HAPPY HOUR!

Station

MARINATION

FREE patio

Above QFC, Pike & Broadway

Aloha served

Tolling Environmental Assessment

Your input is needed!

Mercer Island	Bellevue	Seattle
Jan 29, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.	Jan 30, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.	Jan 31, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
Mercer Island Community Center	Bellevue City Hall	Water Community Center

Washington State Department of Transportation

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Wednesday, January 16, 2013

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Hillebrity: Olivia McCausland
by Timothy Rysdyke - The Capitol Hill Times - Olivia...



a/v

Speaking of 'The Hobbit,' what's up with faeries?

by Jamie Lutton - For The Capitol Hill Times - I was at work last week at my bookshop, when a woman traded in her daughter's books that she had outgrown. Among them were a lot of filmy children's books...

January 10, 2013 / Comments (1) / Read More



'Jalopies' Comes to Hugo House

by Michael Sarko - The Capitol Hill Times - Holding a second job to make ends meet is a fact of life for most actors. Performer and playwright Mark Cherniak spent his early stage days paying the rent by working...

January 10, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More



'Django' Unchanged: Tarantino at it again

by Michael Sarko - The Capitol Hill Times - Part of being a critic is experiencing the urge to write unfair, hyperbolic things just to prove a point. When our better angels decide to call in sick, we get to...

January 3, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More

Capitol Hill New Years Eve celebrations

RESTAURANTS Altura 617 Broadway E Italian Enjoy a special tasting menu, \$130 per person (\$75 to add paired wines), Or \$165 per person extended menu for late seatings (\$95 to add pairings). Regular menu not available. Executive Chef: Nathan Lockwood...

December 30, 2012 / Comments (0) / Read More

upcoming events

JAN 21 Mon	6:30 pm First Hill Writers
JAN 28 Mon	6:30 pm First Hill Writers
FEB 4	6:30 pm First Hill Writers

news

Political Brief: January 15, 2013

By Michael Sarko - The Capitol Hill Times - Still so early in its new session, the Washington State Senate is likely to be the grave of two progressive bills...

January 15, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More

Give a gun, get a gift card: Officials launch weapons buyback program

by Stephen Miller, Editor - The Capitol Hill Times - The city wants your guns, but it doesn't want to know who you are, where you got them or why...

January 10, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More

Community to weigh in Thursday on SCCC plan for light rail site development

by Will Livesley-O'Neill - The Capitol Hill Times - Sound Transit will hold a public hearing Thursday to discuss the proposed sale of surplus land from the Capitol Hill light...

January 10, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More

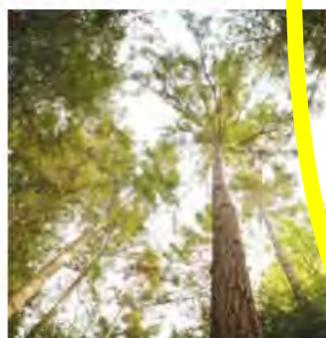
Political Brief: 1-10-13

by Michael Sarko - The Capitol Hill Times - Happy 2013 from the Capitol Hill Times Political Brief. In the new year, the city is hitting the ground running with...

January 10, 2013 / Comments (0) / Read More



media gallery



Weather on the Hill Today Thursday

Partly Cloudy 43°/34° Partly Cloudy 43°/36°

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SASG is Seattle's home for free, confidential support groups for LGBTQ community members affected by HIV/AIDS and addiction.

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Jan 31, 2013
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KeyBank at 23rd/Union to be redeveloped as affordable housing

Posted on January 16, 2013 by jseattle

There is more change coming for 23rd and Union. The KeyBank building at the intersection is being acquired by nonprofit developer Capitol Hill Housing and will be redeveloped as "mixed-use and affordable housing," according to the announcement sent out Wednesday afternoon and posted below.



The bank will continue to operate into April before operations are consolidated at other area branches, according to the announcement.

A bank has operated at the site for decades including the Liberty Bank, started in 1968 as a black-owned bank.

The plan for development comes as some of the more ambitious projects for 23rd and Union were iced by economic downturn. Residents and business owners in the area met in December to work together to help foster growth and safety at the intersection. The post office, a key component of the area, appears destined to remain at its location for the time being. Other, smaller investments have also helped keep the area active including the 2012 opening of Med Mix and the debut of The Neighbor Lady last spring. But investment also means change. The Neighbor Lady took over the space of longtime favorite Thompson's Point of View after tax and business issues forced the restaurant's closure. [Continue reading ->](#)

Posted in News | 2 Replies

The Furnace Reading Series featuring Rae Diamond and Jessika Kenney at Hollow Earth Radio

WHEN: January 16, 2013 @ 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm [View In Calendar](#)

WHERE: Hollow Earth Radio, 2018 East Union Street, Seattle, WA 98122, USA

COST: Free

CONTACT: **Corinne Manning**
corinne.manning@gmail.com

CATEGORIES: [NEWS](#)

TAGS: [Hollow Earth Radio](#) [jessika kenney](#) [literary](#) [rae diamond](#) [Readings](#) [The Furnace](#)

Rae Diamond performs her essay "Three Songs," about a musician's experience of sound, with

Tolling Environmental Assessment
 Your input is needed!

Mercer Island Jan 29, 2013 4 - 7 p.m. Mercer Island Community Center	Bellevue Jan 30, 2013 4 - 7 p.m. Bellevue City Hall	Seattle Jan 31, 2013 4 - 7 p.m. Yusler Community Center
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ON PAGE TWO

- The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia
- Found a wedding ring set on 31 between Marion and E. Spring
- What to do about a neighbor's house?
- Yoga studio - workshop space for rent
- KEY'S FOUND AT 29TH AVE S & S CHARLES

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 9 Wed 7:00 pm Kiss Me Deadly & Seven: Night & Day Film Noir! @ Central Cinema

JAN 16 Wed 4:00 pm Central Area Community Development Coalition Meeting @ Greater Mt. Baker Baptist Church

6:00 pm The Furnace Reading Series featuring Rae Diamond and Jessika Kenney at Hollow Earth Radio @ Hollow Earth Radio

JAN 17 Thu 6:30 pm The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia @ Hamlin Robinson School

7:00 pm Free GLBT Legal Clinic Meets Monthly in Seattle

7:30 pm The Coat Hanger Project @ New Freeway Hall

[View Calendar](#)





Tolling Environmental Assessment
Your input is needed!

Mercer Island
January 29, 2013
4 – 7 p.m.
Mercer Island Community Center

Bellevue
January 30, 2013
4 – 7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall

Seattle
January 31, 2013
4 – 7 p.m.
Yasler Community Center

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Monthly news for the citizens of
Newcastle, WA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013

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Local Sports Schools

King County burn ban ends as air quality improves

NEW — 2:25 p.m. Jan. 16, 2013

Improving air quality led the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to lift a burn ban in King County at 1 p.m. Wednesday. The agency issues air quality burn bans when air pollution rises — or is forecast to reach — unhealthy levels. Meanwhile, a Stage 1 burn ban remains in effect for Pierce and Snohomish counties.

During a Stage 1 burn ban, no burning is allowed in fireplaces or uncertified wood stoves. Residents should rely instead on other, cleaner heat sources, such as a furnace or electric baseboard heaters, for a few days until air quality improves, the public health risk diminishes and the ban is cancelled. [Read more »](#)

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Interactive Poll

What should the citizens of Newcastle be known as?

- A. Newcastlers
- B. Novocastrians
- C. Coal Creekers
- D. Other. Email your responses to newcastle@isspress.com.
- E. Newcastleites

[Vote](#)

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Local News

King County burn ban ends as air quality improves

NEW — 2:25 p.m. Jan. 16, 2013 Improving air quality led the Puget Sound... [Read »](#)

Chamber kicks off its after-hours events

NEW — 2:10 p.m. Jan. 15, 2013 The community is invited to attend the... [Read »](#)

Fireplace use is prohibited under regional burn ban

NEW — 1:10 p.m. Jan. 14, 2013 Burning is prohibited in wood-burning... [Read »](#)

Renton to present proposed middle school boundaries at upcoming meeting

ContributedMap of proposed preliminary new boundaries for all district... [Read »](#)

Celebration launches book about late U.S. Rep. Jennifer Dunn

NEW — 11:50 a.m. Jan. 11, 2013 Leaders plan to gather in Newcastle on... [Read »](#)

Bellevue to discuss Coal Creek Parkway bridge project at upcoming council meeting

NEW — 6:00 p.m. Jan. 10, 2013 Representatives from the city of Bellevue... [Read »](#)

City honors volunteers

Newcastle Library Opens / Dec. 8, 2012



currently

29°F
Overcast

tomorrow

High **48°F**
Low **34°F**

forecast provided by [wunderground.com](#)

Community Links

- [City of Newcastle](#)
- [Coal Creek Utility District](#)
- [Eastside FC](#)
- [Issaquah School District](#)
- [King County](#)
- [King County Library System](#)
- [Liberty Select Basketball](#)
- [Newcastle Baseball Club League](#)
- [Newcastle](#)

Rainier Valley Post

Voted Best Local Website in 2012 by the Seattle Weekly

Open Thread Thursday: What's on Your Mind, Neighbors?

JANUARY 17, 2013
in OPINION

Most anything is open for discussion, please just keep it clean and civil and remember the established RVP rules of conduct:

Opinions that are derogatory, attack other users, offer unsubstantiated facts or are offensive in nature can and will be removed as defined by the Terms of Service.

Trolls will not be tolerated. IOW, if you frequently set out to incite flame wars for the sole purpose of offending or irritating other posters, expect to be dissed, banned, disallowed and/or deleted.

Your RVP is not responsible for the content posted in this comment section, and reserves the right to remove any offensive remark or thread.

Thank you!

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{ 10 comments }

New Columbia City Mural to Be Unveiled This Weekend

JANUARY 16, 2013
in NEWS

By [Dominique Scalia](#), RVP Managing Editor

COLUMBIA CITY – For the past year, Community Arts Create (http://www.communityartscreate.org/Community_Arts_Create/Home.html) and Urban ArtWorks (<http://urbanartworks.org/>) (CAC) has been working with community organizations and businesses to develop the Columbia City Mural Project (http://www.communityartscreate.org/Community_Arts_Create/CC_Mural)

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RAINIER VALLEY POST Happy Hour Guide

Tolling Environmental Assessment Your input is needed! Mercer Island Jan 29, 2013, 4 – 7 p.m. Bellevue Jan 30, 2013, 4 – 7 p.m. Seattle Jan 31, 2013, 4 – 7 p.m.

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WS Crime Prevention Council to discuss drug laws, school safety on Jan. 15 WEST

Westside-O-Rama West Seattle Entertainment Guide: Admiral Theater 2343

SLIDESHOW: Shorewood Christian boys team crushes Evergreen Lutheran

Take Two #59: Carpe Diem By Kyr...
This week we're going to...
...likely go against ...

Police Blotter Week of
... 12 Light bulbs and
... useless... work On
Dec. 30, someone broke

RECENT ARTICLES

Fabio is coming to West Seattle; Yes that Fabio on Jan. 17

Icy hill leads to collisions

Film about Easy Street Records closure shows why it mattered

SPU: Rising sea levels could put West Seattle shores underwater by 2050

Letter- It doesn't get any easier - A tribute to Jerry Ceis

Dust off those running shoes: First Annual White Center 5k is one month away

Pet of the Week- Puma is a bilingual dog



TOP STORY



File photo by David Rosen

The Alki Beach promenade flooded due to King Tides in 2012. Seattle Public Utilities believes, based on the current path of climate change and global warming, many Seattle shorelines will be underwater by 2050 unless changes are made.

SPU: Rising sea levels could put West Seattle shores underwater by 2050

By Ty Swenson

Jan 16, 2013 [updated 6 hours ago](#)

Seattle city planners, "using conservative scientific assumptions," believe sea level rise due to climate change will flood portions of our shorelines regularly at high tide by the year 2050.

According to a [map published by Seattle Public Utilities](#) (SPU) planners in 2013, parts of West Seattle, Harbor Island, South Park and much of the Duwamish shoreline "could be inundated by 2050. The impact on Seattle shorelines depends on factors such as tides and storms, along with actions the City may take to reduce its own contribution to climate change."

"Climate change is an immediate and critical challenge," City Councilmember Mike O'Brien wrote in a press release. "We are already seeing impacts in Seattle from extreme events, such as last month's flooding of some 100 properties along Beach Drive in West Seattle. We need to take bold steps to prepare our city for expected impacts and drastically reduce our contribution to greenhouse gases going forward."

[More >](#)

Tolling Environmental Assessment
Your input is needed!

Mercer Island	Bellevue	Seattle
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West Seattle traffic alert: Reminder for Fauntleroy ferry users

January 18, 2013 at 1:35 pm | In Fauntleroy, West Seattle news, West Seattle traffic alerts | No Comments

Traffic has been decidedly difficult at times since the Barton Pump Station upgrade project started north of the Fauntleroy ferry terminal, with closures including one toll booth and a dock lane at times. But north of the dock, the usual rules still apply, as Washington State Ferries reminded drivers with this advisory:

Customers lining up at Fauntleroy should note that the ferry queue continues along Fauntleroy Way at the gas station at the north end of Lincoln Park; it does not go down 47th Ave. SW toward the beach. Please also note that line cutting is against state law and subject to a fine of up to \$124. We ask that customers be respectful of others waiting in the queue. You can report line-cutters by calling 877-764-HERO. All violators are logged and receive a warning letter. Multiple violations result in further action.

Share This

West Seattle Block Watch Captains Network to take a look at surveillance cams

January 18, 2013 at 11:22 am | In Crime, West Seattle news | 1 Comment

Interested in surveillance cameras to deter crime or record it if it happens? That's a major topic of next Tuesday's West Seattle Block Watch Captains Network meeting - and you don't have to be a BW captain (or even part of a BW) to attend. Also on the agenda, new Southwest Precinct commander Capt. Joe Kessler is expected to drop in for a (re-)introduction (here's our recent story on his return to the precinct). The meeting's



questions are not aligned with these new standards? Further, this misalignment will result in a false reading of student growth and those lower test scores will put elementary teachers in a Garfield-type predicament where a solid teacher could feel threatened due to faulty test results.

For these reasons, we urge you to recognize the Garfield teachers' stance as an opportunity to correct an injustice initiated under a former administration and to publicly announce that no teacher will be put on plans of improvement as the result of test scores until such time as a statistically-reliable (and more humane) second measure of student growth is in place.

With Respect,

The Sanislo Elementary School Staff

In a response to the Garfield boycott, the superintendent said the district is reviewing MAP but expects the tests to be administered this winter as planned.

Share This

Edit

The Whale Trail launches speaker series: Come hear orca researcher Mark Sears

January 17, 2013 at 11:12 am | In West Seattle news, Wildlife | No Comments



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THE BIG STORIES

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- *Sanislo teachers oppose MAP
- *Happy 106th, Doris!
- *UPDATE: Burn ban lifted
- *K-5 STEAM home? 'Somewhere'
- *Rising-water warning
- *Jerry Ceis, 1948-2013
- *Congratulations, Mr. Reed!
- *VIDEO: Sealth-Nankai b'ball
- *Neighbors protest lot split

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CELEBRATING LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS

Alki Party Treasures

Tolling Environmental Assessment Your Input is needed!

Marion Island	Delaney	Seattle
Jan 26, 2013	Jan 30, 2013	Jan 31, 2013
4-7 p.m.	4-7 p.m.	4-7 p.m.
Marion Island Community Center	Delaney City Hall	North Community Center

FIELD OUT WORK

SUPER STRING SATURDAY

Presented by Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras

January 26 * 10am-1pm

Chief Sealth High School

WEST SEATTLE NEWS 24-7

WSB covers West Seattle 24/7, with your help. Got a tip or question about news happening now? 206-293-6302 or e-mail