

Final Environmental Impact Statement Fact Sheet

The SR 520 Pontoon Construction Project is nearing the completion of its environmental process and is a step closer to construction in Grays Harbor. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) partnered with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to publish the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Pontoon Construction Project on Dec. 10, 2010.

What is the Pontoon Construction Project?

The Pontoon Construction Project is one project of the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program. The existing SR 520 floating bridge is nearing the end of its useful design life and is vulnerable to windstorms. We are advancing pontoon construction in order to be prepared to restore the current bridge in case of a catastrophic event. If the new pontoons are not needed for catastrophic failure replacement, they will be stored until needed for the planned SR 520 bridge replacement.

WSDOT identified the Aberdeen Log Yard site in Aberdeen, WA as the preferred alternative in August 2009. In December 2009, WSDOT announced Kiewit-General Joint Venture (K-G) as the apparent best value design-build contractor. After we complete the environmental process and receive permits, we can begin construction of a casting facility and 33 pontoons in Grays Harbor, beginning in spring 2011.



What is an environmental impact statement?

An environmental impact statement is a document that outlines potential effects from a proposed project and is required by law through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). An EIS provides comprehensive analysis and information about the purpose and need of the project, proposed plans for construction, and information about environmental effects, including wetlands, wildlife, economics, noise, and transportation.

In May 2010, WSDOT published the SR 520 Pontoon Construction Project Draft EIS and received public comments on the document. The final EIS will be presented in a similar format to the draft EIS, but with updated information, the comments received during the draft EIS 45-day comment period, and responses to those comments. The final EIS document discloses anticipated effects from the project and WSDOT's plans to mitigate these effects.

How can I view the document?

There are multiple ways to review the Pontoon Construction Project Final EIS.

Go online:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520/Pontoons

Contact the project office:

SR 520 Pontoon Construction Project
600 Stewart St, Suite 520
Seattle, WA 98101
206-770-3500
pontoons@wsdot.wa.gov

Visit local libraries:

Aberdeen Timberland Library
Elma Timberland Library
Hoquiam Timberland Library
Grays Harbor College Library
McCleary Timberland Library
Montesano Timberland Library
Seattle Public Library Central Branch
University of Washington Suzzallo and Allen Libraries
Tacoma Main Library
Westport Timberland Library

What are the next steps?

Once the final EIS is published in the federal register, it is anticipated that FHWA will select an alternative and sign the Record of Decision (ROD). FHWA's signature of the ROD allows the project to move forward from planning into permitting and construction.

Permits are planned to be received during the spring. The Pontoon Construction Project is fully funded to begin construction in spring 2011. WSDOT anticipates the first cycle of pontoons to be complete in spring 2012 with all pontoons built by spring 2014.



Conceptual casting facility for building pontoons based on the design evaluated in the final EIS.

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