



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program



Spring 2009

WSDOT is prepared for a catastrophic failure



Traffic crossing Lake Washington on the SR 520 bridge during evening rush hour.

WSDOT is responsible for more than 20,000 roadway lane-miles and 3,000 bridges in our state. Keeping drivers safe is our top priority. We know that the SR 520 bridges and approaches are vulnerable to windstorms and earthquakes and need to be replaced. Because more than 155,000 people in 115,000 vehicles cross the SR 520 bridge every day, we must be prepared in the case of a catastrophic failure.

Improving and replacing the SR 520 bridge and corridor is critical to maintaining the safety of cross-Lake Washington travelers. The planned SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program will replace these vulnerable bridge and approach structures. Until we have replaced the SR 520 bridge, we have prepared for a possible bridge failure by completing the SR 520 Catastrophic Failure Plan.

What is the SR 520 Catastrophic Failure Plan?

The SR 520 Catastrophic Failure Plan describes communication and traffic management plans to keep the public informed and people and goods moving in and around the central Puget Sound region if the SR 520 bridge failed.

WSDOT developed the Catastrophic Failure Plan in collaboration with regional jurisdictions, transit agencies, emergency responders and businesses. The plan provides a basis for local jurisdictions to develop or update their own emergency response plans.

What is the communications plan?

Our primary goal is safety. If the bridge were to fail, WSDOT will communicate critical safety information to the traveling public by regularly updating these resources:

- WSDOT Web site: www.wsdot.wa.gov.
- Television, radio and print media.
- 5-1-1 CARS hotline system.
- Regional Public Information Network: www.rpin.org.
- Northwest Warning, Alter, Response Network (NW-WARN): www.nwwarn.org.
- Other regional, state and local emergency operations centers.
- Public information officers and communications staff from regional jurisdictions and agencies.

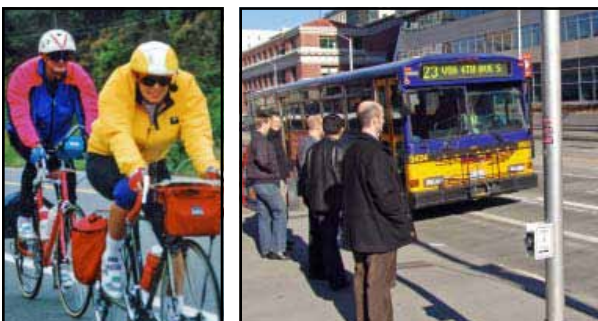
What is the transportation management plan?

An SR 520 bridge failure would disrupt traffic throughout the central Puget Sound region. We have developed these transportation tools to keep people and goods moving:

- Traffic management strategies for affected corridors, including I-90, I-5, SR 522, SR 520 and I-405.
- Priority for freight to help keep commerce moving throughout the region.

We have also identified these key strategies to prioritize efficient transit travel:

- Enacting emergency reroute procedures on detour and affected routes.
- Increasing transit service.
- Consolidating transit routes and reprioritizing service hours.
- Increasing public awareness and incentives.
- Adding park and ride capacity.



WSDOT employees monitor traffic at the Regional Transportation Management Center

What are traffic management strategies?

Transportation demand management

Transportation demand management uses existing infrastructure as efficiently as possible and implements programs to reduce demand for transportation facilities. Programs include encouraging increased use of carpooling, transit and alternative work arrangements.

Transportation system management

Transportation system management focuses on operation improvements to the existing infrastructure to enhance capacity. Some examples include intersection and signal improvements, freeway chokepoint monitoring, and intelligent transportation systems like real-time driver updates and variable speed limits. WSDOT has been testing and developing these strategies throughout the region, including on I-5 and on I-90.

For more information:

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