

## **APPENDIX A GLOSSARY**

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SR 520, MEDINA TO SR 202: EASTSIDE TRANSIT AND HOV PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
100-year floodplain	The area that would be inundated by a flood having a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year.
access	The ability to enter a freeway or roadway via an on-ramp or other entry point.
acquisition	The purchasing of a property, residences, or businesses for right of way necessary to construct or support a project.
anadromous fish	Fish that migrate to the ocean.
aquifer	A geologic stratum of saturated materials with the capability of yielding useable quantities of groundwater on a long-term, sustainable basis.
Area of Potential Effects (APE)	An area where cultural resources, if they are present, could be directly or indirectly affected by a project.
arterial	A major street that primarily serves traffic, but also provides access to abutting properties.
best management practices (BMPs)	Physical, structural, and/or managerial practices that, when used singly or in combination with other practices, have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of avoiding or reducing environmental effects. The term "BMP" is widely used to refer to a variety of common management techniques.
biofiltration swale	Provides basic treatment and consists of a flat-bottomed, shallow-sloped swale planted with grasses. The swale functions by slowing runoff velocities, filtering out sediment and other pollutants, and providing some infiltration into underlying soils.
British thermal unit (Btu)	A unit of energy equal to the amount of heat required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at one atmosphere pressure, equivalent to 251.997 calories.
Build Alternative	Includes building a complete high-occupancy (HOV) system between Lake Washington and 108th Avenue NE and restriping the existing HOV lanes from the outside lanes to the inside between the 108th Avenue NE interchange and SR 202 in Redmond. See Chapter 4 for more details.
buffer	A designated area along and adjacent to a stream or wetland that may be regulated to control the negative effects of adjacent development on the aquatic resource.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	A colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fossil fuels, sometimes referred to as a greenhouse gas because it contributes to global warming.
carbon monoxide (CO)	A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete combustion of fossil fuel.
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)	The arrangement of the general and permanent rules published by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. The code is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year.
comprehensive plan	A municipal plan that provides policy and guidance on physical development and redevelopment. It addresses a range of issues, including land use, economic development, housing, environmental protection, transportation, public facilities, urban design, and historic preservation. It also guides zoning laws, which in turn affect the types of uses allowed in specific areas and other development regulations and restrictions.
congestion	The condition when unstable traffic flows constrain travel speeds to less than the posted limit.
critical habitat	Under the Endangered Species Act, (1) the specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a federally-listed species on which are found physical or biological features essential to conserving the species, and that may require special protection or management considerations; and (2) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by a federally-listed species when it is determined that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.
culvert	A pipe or concrete box structure that drains open channels, swales, or ditches under a roadway or embankment. Typically, a culvert is not connected to a catch basin or manhole along its length.
cumulative effect	The effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individual minor but collectively noticeable actions taking place over a period of time.
A-weighted decibel (dBA)	A logarithmic based unit of measure of sound pressure. Sounds expressed in terms of dBA provide a single number measure of a sound's loudness based on the ear's sensitivity to different frequencies.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
design-build	In a design-build project, the project's design and construction are contracted with a single entity (for example, a general contractor). This approach can help reduce risk for the owner and/or shorten the project schedule by overlapping the design and construction phases.
design storm	A rainfall event of specific size and return frequency that is used to calculate the runoff volume and peak discharge rate to a stormwater facility.
detention	The temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a stormwater facility, which is used to control the peak discharge rates and which provides gravity settling of pollutants.
detention pond	A catchment designed to mitigate stormwater runoff quality and/or quantity effects by storing the increased runoff volume that results from development, then slowly releasing it at controlled runoff rates.
direct jobs	The number of jobs created for people working directly on a project, such as construction workers.
discharge	Runoff leaving a new development or redevelopment via overland flow, built conveyance systems, or infiltration facilities; a hydraulic rate of flow, specifically fluid flow; a volume of fluid passing a point per unit of time.
distinct population segment (DPS)	A subgroup of a vertebrate species that is treated as species for purposes of listing under the ESA. The subgroup must be separable from the species as a whole yet significant to the species to which it belongs.
displacement	The act of removing a business, residence, or public facility from its existing location. In the context of transportation improvements, displacement is generally the result of (1) property acquisition for right of way expansion, or (2) elimination of access to a property due to traffic revisions.
Eastside	Refers to the communities on the east side of Lake Washington, including Medina, Hunts Point, Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point, Kirkland, Bellevue, and Redmond.
easement	An agreement with a property owner that provides a limited right to make use of a property.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ecosystem	A community of organisms interacting with each other, and the environment in which they live.
effect	Something brought about by a cause or agent; a result. This may include ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, health, or other effects, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects may include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects.
electrofishing	A fish sampling method that involves capturing fish using an electric shock technique.
emission	Pollution discharged into the environment from a point or non-point source.
endangered species	Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
Environmental Assessment (EA)	A document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Policy Act that identifies and describes the analysis of the potential environmental effects of a proposed action.
equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq}$ )	The equivalent steady-state sound level in A-weighted decibels for a stated period of time, which contains the same acoustic energy as the actual time-varying sound level for the same period of time.
evolutionarily significant unit (ESU)	The term used by the National Marine Fisheries Service for a fish species population protected by a listing under the Endangered Species Act.
federally-listed species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that has been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries Service to be endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.
general-purpose lane	A freeway or arterial lane available for use by all traffic.
geographic information system (GIS)	A digital computer mapping system that can overlay a wide variety of data such as land use, utilities, and vegetative cover, and provide a spatial analysis.
greenhouse gas (GHG)	A gas that contributes to global warming.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
groundwater	The portion of the water below the ground surface that is free flowing within the soil particles. Groundwater typically moves slowly, generally at a downward angle because of gravity, and eventually enters into surface water bodies.
habitat	The native environment or specific surroundings where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. The surroundings include physical factors such as temperature, moisture, and light, together with biological factors such as the presence of food or predator organisms.
half-diamond interchange	Is designed so that if traffic exits the freeway from one direction, it can only enter the freeway from the opposite direction. This creates a triangular or half-diamond configuration.
high-occupancy vehicle (HOV)	A special designation for a bus, carpool, or vanpool provided as an encouragement to increase ride-sharing. Specially designed HOV lanes and parking are among the incentives for persons to pool trips, use fewer vehicles, and make the transportation system more efficient.
hydrogeomorphic (HGM)	A hydrogeomorphic (HGM) classification of wetlands groups wetlands based on physical characteristics and the kinds of functions that wetlands may develop based on their characteristics. Characteristics that control the functions a wetland may provide include a wetland's physical properties and source of water, geologic setting, and the ways water moves through the environment. This classification system places less emphasis on the composition of the plant community in a wetland.
impervious surface	Pavement, roofs, and other compacted or hardened areas that do not allow the passage of rainfall or runoff into the ground.
infiltration	The downward movement of water from the surface to the subsoil.
indirect effect	An effect that occurs later in time or is removed in distance from the proposed action, but is still reasonably foreseeable.
indirect jobs	The number of jobs created for people working for producers of materials, equipment, and services that are used on a project, such as steel producers.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
induced jobs	The number of jobs created when people working in direct and indirect jobs associated with a project spend their increased incomes on consumer goods and services in the local and regional economy.
landscape unit	Places or districts with clear landform or land cover boundaries that form an outdoor area with similar visual character and visual continuity. For example, a landscape unit can be a single neighborhood, or several neighborhoods combined.
large woody debris	Woody vegetation (e.g., trees or tree parts) that is wholly or partially waterward of the ordinary high water line. To qualify as large woody debris, it must be of sufficient size to be resistant to erosion, provide bank stability, or help maintain or create habitat features important to fish life.
level of service (LOS)	A measure of how well a freeway or local signalized intersection operates. For freeways, LOS is a measure of traffic congestion typically based on volume-to-capacity ratios. For local intersections, LOS is based on how long it takes a typical vehicle to clear the intersection. Other criteria also may be used to gauge the operating performance of transit, non-motorized, and other transportation modes.
lid	A long bridge that covers a length of highway, also known as a lidded highway. Lid surface areas can carry paths and trails to connect communities across the highway, landscaping to create open space and places for passive recreation, and items such as seating and transit waiting areas.
liquefaction	A phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking or other rapid loading. Liquefaction occurs in saturated soils, that is, soils in which the space between individual particles is completely filled with water.
listed species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that has been determined to be endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act or applicable state laws or regulations.
minimization	Taking measures to reduce potential effects to the smallest practical amount, extent, size, or degree. Minimization could include alignment shifts, a replacement of land or facilities, restoration or landscaping, or payment of fair market value for affected lands.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
mitigation	An effort to (1) avoid the effect altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimize effects by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce effects; (3) rectify the effect by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reduce or eliminate the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; (5) compensate for the effect by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or (6) monitor the effect and take appropriate corrective measures.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	Federal legislation adopted in 1969 that established a national environmental policy intentionally focused on federal activities and the desire for a sustainable environment balanced with other essential needs of present and future generations. NEPA also established federal agency responsibility and created the basic framework for integrating environmental considerations into federal decision-making.
No Build Alternative	Under the No Build Alternative, the transportation improvements described for the Build Alternative would not be made. The No Build Alternative assumes that only routine activities such as road maintenance, repair, and safety improvements will take place between 2014 and 2030 along the 520 corridor.
noise abatement criteria (NAC)	Rules administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that specify exterior and interior noise levels for various land activity categories such as residential and commercial uses. WSDOT considers a noise effect to occur if predicted equivalent hourly noise levels ( $L_{eq}(h)$ ) approach within 1 A-weighted decibel (dBA) of the noise abatement criteria.
ordinary high water mark	The elevation marking the highest water level that is so common and maintained for a sufficient time in all ordinary years that it leaves evidence upon the landscape, such as a clear and natural line impressed on the bank, changes in soil character, destruction of or change in vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris. Generally, it is the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to upland species. Where the ordinary high water mark cannot be found, it is the line of mean annual flood – the highest the water gets in an average year – but not the highest it gets during extreme flooding.
outreach	The effort made to contact members of the general public or specific targeted groups or individuals to provide project information and to obtain input.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
person-year of employment	One person employed for one year.
Points communities	Medina, Hunts Point, Clyde Hill, and Yarrow Point.
pollutant	Any substance introduced into the environment that contaminates or otherwise adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.
pollution-generating impervious surfaces (PGIS)	Impervious surfaces that are a source of pollutants in stormwater runoff. Study area PGIS includes roadways that receive direct rainfall or the run-on or blow-in of rainfall.
recharge	Water whether precipitation, surface water or groundwater that will enter and add to the change in level of an aquifer.
resident fish	Fish that spend their entire lives within a freshwater stream.
restoration	To improve a disturbed or altered wetland by returning wetland parameters that may be missing. The restoration may return an original wetland habitat.
right of way	Land purchased prior to the construction of new highway improvements along with land for building sound walls, retaining walls, and other project features. Vacant land may also be set aside for future highway expansion.
riparian	Land that occurs along or interacts with flowing water.
runoff	Rainwater or snowmelt that directly leaves an area as a surface drainage.
salmonid	Member of the fish family <i>Salmonidae</i> , including salmon, trout, and char.
scoping	The process implemented early in project development to involve the public, agencies, local jurisdictions, tribes, and other concerned groups in identifying the range of proposed actions, alternatives, environmental issues, effects, and mitigation measures to be addressed in an environmental document.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
species of concern	Species whose conservation standing is of concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but for which status information is still needed for consideration to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	Washington State legislation adopted in 1974 that establishes an environmental review process for all development proposals and major planning studies prior to taking any action. SEPA includes early coordination to identify and mitigate any substantial issues or significant effects that may result from a project or study.
stormwater	The portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes, and other features of a drainage system into a defined surface water body or treatment facility.
surface water bodies	Include lakes, streams, ponds, and wetlands.
threatened species	Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
throughput	The number of vehicles being carried on a facility. This is usually measured at a specific point on the roadway facility for a predetermined period of time.
total suspended solids (TSS)	Soil and other particles that are carried in water. High levels of soil particles can make a water body appear muddy or cloudy and may affect fish by clogging their gills and reducing their ability to see and forage for food.
turbidity	A condition caused by suspended sediments or floating material that clouds the water and makes it appear dark and muddy.
urban matrix	Commercial and residential areas with buildings, asphalt, ornamental gardens, lawns, and scattered trees. Urban Matrix provides limited habitat for common birds, small mammals, and amphibians.
vehicle miles travelled (VMT)	The number of miles traveled by all vehicles usually reported for a given area or population.
viewshed	The area that can be seen from a given viewpoint or group of viewpoints; it is also that area from which that viewpoint or group of viewpoints can be seen.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
visual quality	A subjective measure of the character of the visual resource. The many factors that contribute to a landscape's visual quality are grouped under intactness, unity, and vividness.
Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA)	Area designated by the Washington State Department of Ecology for water and aquatic resource management. There 62 WRIAs designed throughout Washington State. The terms WRIA and watershed are frequently used interchangeably, although a WRIA may include more than one watershed.
watershed	The region of land that drains into a specific body of water, such as a river, lake, sea, or ocean. Rain that falls anywhere within a given water body's watershed will eventually drain into that water body.
wetland	Area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.