

520 Tolling Implementation Committee

Media Advisory

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520 Tolling Implementation Committee To Hold Fourth Meeting

SEATTLE – The 520 Tolling Implementation Committee will host a meeting to continue hearing about issues and considerations related to tolling on the 520 corridor. The Committee was established to help inform and gather input from people in the region. The Committee is charged with developing a report that will inform future decisions by the state legislature on how tolls can help build a new 520 bridge.

The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, August 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Seattle City Hall - Bertha Landes Room
600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98124

The meeting will focus on current and planned transit service in the cross-Lake Washington corridor, in addition to initial impressions from open houses and public comments received so far during the comment period that continues through August 31.

The Tolling Implementation Committee recently released results of an analysis of four initial cross-lake toll scenarios, two of which evaluate tolls on 520, and two of which evaluate tolls on both 520 and I-90. The scenarios include sample toll rates, revenue estimates, travel speeds and travel impacts. In addition to information about the toll scenarios, and hearing from the public on these scenarios, Committee members have heard from an independent peer review team about its evaluation of the regional traffic model and the methods used to produce estimates on travel impacts and bridge funding.

The committee has recently completed five of six open houses for the public to get informed on the initial tolling scenarios on 520 and offer their feedback. These open houses have focused on comparisons of forecasts of bridge funding raised by different toll rates and changes in traffic patterns. The sixth and final open house will be held on:

August 13, 2008

Mercer Island Community Center
Community Center at Mercer View
2040 84th Ave SE

A presentation will be given at 6:00 p.m.

The state Legislature established the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee this year and

named as its members: Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council; Paula Hammond, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation; and Dick Ford, Commissioner, Washington State Transportation Commission.

The committee is conferring with local jurisdictions around Lake Washington, evaluating different alternatives, and seeking public input about how tolls can help pay for a new 520 bridge. Members of the public who cannot attend the open houses can learn more about the committee's work and provide input at www.build520.org. The committee's final report is due to the governor and the Legislature in January 2009.

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