

520 Tolling Implementation Committee

Media Advisory

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520 Tolling Implementation Committee Releases New Evaluation and Seeks Public Comment

SEATTLE – During a meeting in Redmond today, the 520 Tolling Implementation Committee released the results of its second round of evaluation of tolls across Lake Washington. The evaluation looked at a total of nine tolling scenarios, illustrating and comparing different toll rates, bridge funding potential, traffic speeds, diversion and transit use. Five scenarios look at tolling only 520; four look at tolling both 520 & I-90. Each scenario includes sample tolls rates, revenue estimates, travel speeds and travel impacts, with the following overarching findings:

- When tolls are in place, speeds improve. On 520, speeds increase up to 40%. If both bridges are tolled, speeds increase on both.
- Tolling starting in 2010 improves traffic flow on the 520 bridge.
- Regarding route diversion – people may change their routes, but net effect is distributed across the system.
- People may change their travel choices to take transit, shift time of day or change destination.
- Tolling 520 in 2010 raises more funds and should reduce cost of borrowing over tolling 520 in 2016.
- Scenarios raise between \$654 M to \$2,457 M in bridge funding from tolls. The most a single-bridge scenario raised was \$1.5 billion. Scenarios that toll both 520 and 90 exceeded \$2 billion.

Detailed information is available on the committee's web site: www.build520.org.

With the release of this information, the committee is also undertaking a new round of public comment that will run through November 30, 2008. An online survey related to these scenarios has been launched. Please visit www.build520.org.

The public also can get informed and provide feedback regarding the toll scenario results at three open houses. Formal presentations at each open house will be at 5:00 p.m.:

November 12 – Bellevue, 3 to 7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Ave NE

November 13, Seattle, 3 to 7 p.m.
University of Washington, Gould Hall
3949 45th Ave NE

November 17, Mercer Island, 3 to 7 p.m.
Stroum Jewish Community Center
3801 E Mercer Way

Members of the public are also welcome to provide their comments by:

E-Mail: info@build520.org

Mail:
520 Tolling Implementation Committee
c/o Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, Washington 98104-1035

The legislature established the Committee in May, and named 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 seeking public input and consulting with local jurisdictions around Lake Washington about how tolls can help pay for a new 520 between Seattle and Bellevue. A final report on comments from the public and local jurisdictions is due to the governor and legislature in January 2009.

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