

520 Tolling Implementation Committee News Release

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520 Tolling Implementation Committee Adds Sixth Open House

SEATTLE – The 520 Tolling Implementation Committee added a visit to Mercer Island to the series of open houses about how tolls can help pay for a new 520 bridge between Seattle and Bellevue.

The Mercer Island open house on Aug. 13 gives the public a sixth opportunity to provide input and learn about four tolling options being evaluated now by the committee. The open houses will include comparisons of forecasts of bridge funding raised by different toll rates and changes in traffic patterns. All events begin at 5 p.m., with a formal presentation at 6 p.m.

The open houses will be held from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at these dates and locations:

July 29 – Bothell
UW Bothell North Creek Events Center
11125 NE 180th Street

July 31 – Renton
Spirit of Washington Events Center in Renton
233 Burnett Avenue S.

August 5 – Seattle
Naval Reserve at South Lake Union
860 Terry Avenue N.

August 6 – Bellevue
Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Avenue NE

August 7 – Kirkland
Kirkland Performance Center
350 Kirkland Avenue

August 13 – Mercer Island
Community Center at Mercer View – Mercer Room
8236 SE 24th Street

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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