



Bridge Replacement
and HOV Program

2019:
THE YEAR
AHEAD



A message from the SR 520 Program Administrator

Greetings,

To our many SR 520 friends and neighbors, I'd like to share an update on our work to reconstruct and improve State Route 520, with a focus on the year ahead. With the Eastlake, Floating Bridge, and West Approach Bridge North projects complete, and the new SR 520 Trail open, we're now focused on the area between Lake Washington and I-5. We call this area the "Rest of the West," which is fully funded by the 2015 Connecting Washington legislation. The project area is shown in the map below.

The first phase of construction – known as the Montlake Project – will be ramping up this spring. We recently selected Graham Contracting Ltd. as the contractor to build the project – and they're excited to get started! We know tens of thousands of people use the SR 520 corridor every day, including many bus riders, drivers, walkers and bikers, and we're committed to keeping you moving during construction. The SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project is also around the corner, with construction scheduled to begin in 2020.

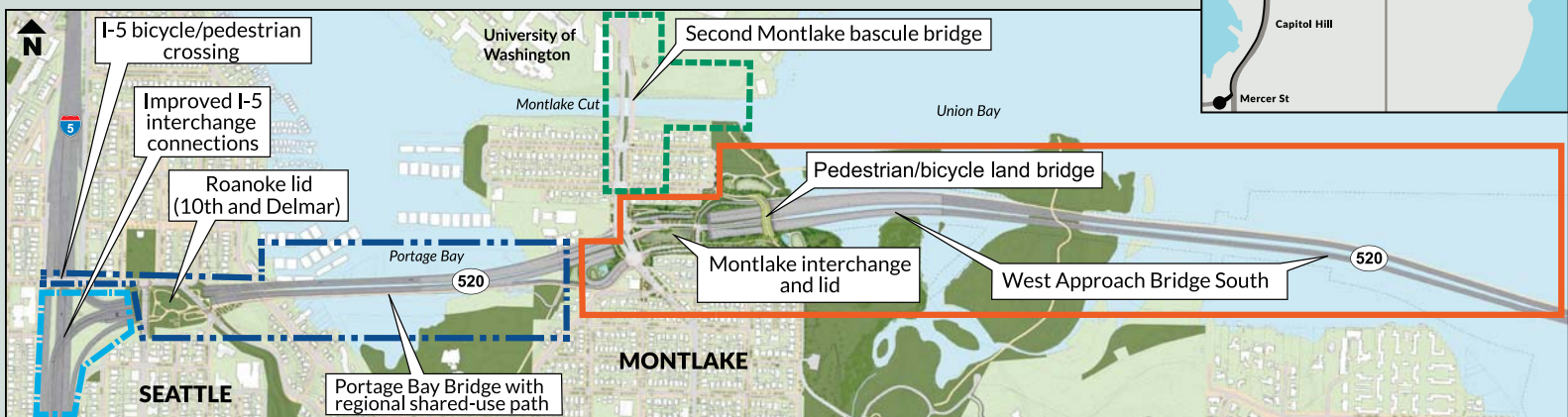
Rest assured, there will be many more opportunities for you to get involved in the project in the year ahead. We'll host Montlake Project pre-construction open houses and monthly public meetings with the contractor. You'll also have opportunities to learn about and provide input on design features for the new Portage Bay Bridge, the future Roanoke lid and other elements of the new corridor.

Thank you for your interest and patience as we move into our next significant period of construction. I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, and have a great 2019!



Denise Cieri, P.E.

Major SR 520 improvements in Seattle - the Rest of the West



SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project
Construction estimated start: 2020
Estimated duration: 3 years

Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project
Construction estimated start: 2023
Estimated duration: 6 years

Montlake Cut Bascule Bridge Project
WSDOT will begin additional coordination with community stakeholders and agency partners regarding project scope

Montlake Project
Construction starting in early 2019
Estimated duration: 4-5 years

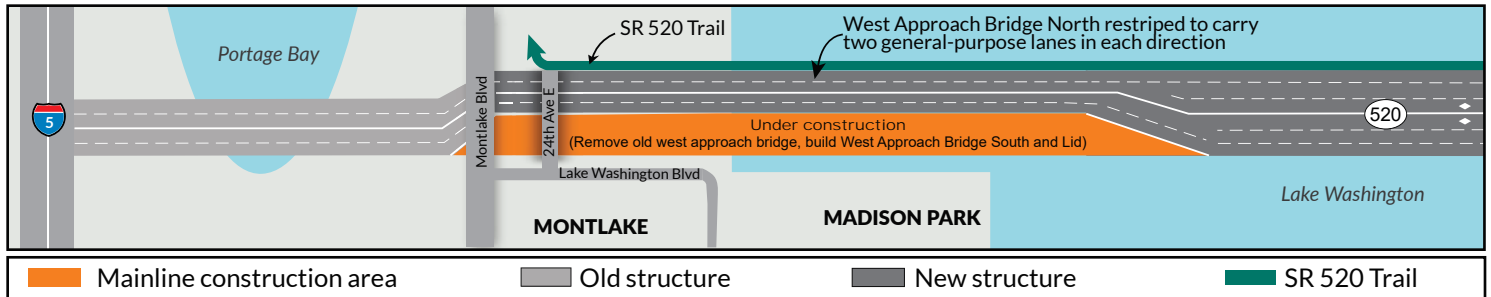
Montlake Project construction starting soon: what travelers can expect



Construction will start soon on the Montlake Project, bringing with it necessary travel impacts. Below are a few key impacts and how they'll affect your commute. Our contractor is in the process of finalizing the construction schedule and determining the timing of these changes. We'll send notices prior to major traffic shifts and activities.

SR 520 traffic shift

We'll shift eastbound SR 520 traffic onto the new West Approach Bridge North, allowing us to remove the old west approach bridge and construct a new eastbound bridge. During construction, eastbound and westbound traffic will share the north structure, with two general-purpose lanes in each direction between Montlake and the floating bridge.



Montlake freeway transit stops closing

To ensure rider safety and reliable transit access during construction, we will permanently close the current highway-level transit stops in Montlake, currently expected in June 2019. Alternate bus stops will remain open on Montlake Boulevard and at the Montlake Triangle/UW light rail station. WSDOT will continue to coordinate with its partner transit agencies to help riders reach their destinations during construction.

Eastbound on-ramp in Arboretum closing

To help restore the Arboretum, we will close and remove the existing eastbound SR 520 on-ramp that crosses through the park. The completed project will include capacity improvements to the Montlake interchange to help accommodate the traffic that currently uses the eastbound on-ramp in the Arboretum.

Highlights of Graham's construction plan

Graham Contracting Ltd. is proposing a number of ways to build the Montlake Project more efficiently and with less impacts to the traveling public and the environment, including:



- Shortening construction duration by up to one year.
- Installing a new, temporary eastbound on-ramp from Lake Washington Boulevard to provide access to SR 520 and keep traffic flowing on Montlake Boulevard during construction.
- Minimizing the number of SR 520 highway closures during construction.
- Providing innovative ways to maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction.
- Using part of the existing west approach bridge to build the new West Approach Bridge South structure, reducing the number of temporary in-water support pilings from approximately 1,000 to 300 and eliminating approximately 100,000 square feet of temporary over-water shading.

Tools to stay informed in construction

We'll have a number of resources to help you stay up to date about planned construction activities and find information on how to get around during construction.

- ✓ **Website:** wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge
- ✓ **Email:** SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov
- ✓ **Regular email updates:** (sign up via our website)
- ✓ **Twitter:** [@wsdot_520](https://twitter.com/wsdot_520)
- ✓ **SR 520 Construction Corner:** Our new online tool for getting up-to-date construction info: SR520construction.com
- ✓ **SR 520 Ombudsman:** David Goldberg - GoldbeD@wsdot.wa.gov; 206-770-3659



And coming soon ...

- **24-hour hotline:** 206-775-8885 (activating soon)
- **Montlake Project informational "storefront":** Opening soon in Montlake!
- **Preconstruction open house and monthly construction update meetings** with WSDOT and the Montlake Project contractor; Meetings start this spring.

Update on the Montlake Market and practical design process



The courts confirmed in 2018 that WSDOT has a public need for the property where the Montlake Market and 76 gas station lie in order to build the Montlake Project. We expect to complete the property purchase later this summer.

We know the Montlake Market is important to Montlake neighbors. Since last fall, as directed by the Legislature, we've worked with our contractor, the city of Seattle, and other technical experts to evaluate the practicability of preserving the market building during upcoming project construction. We hosted two recent public meetings, one in November and one in January, to provide the community with updates on this effort, gather feedback, and provide answers to people's questions. We discussed the project's needs for the property, both temporary and permanent. We also shared potential scenarios and tradeoffs associated with preservation of the building, and how they might impact the community, project schedule, and project costs. In addition, we solicited community opinions with an online survey. The survey results will be posted on our website.

We are moving forward with our evaluation and analysis. We'll continue to engage the public as we assess whether it's practicable to preserve the market. Please stay tuned for more updates on this important matter.



Aerial view of the Montlake area and SR 520, looking north



A recent public meeting in the Montlake neighborhood

Project benefits - New lid and community-connecting features in the Montlake area

The Montlake Project includes a number of major amenities and community enhancements, such as a new lid with open space and multimodal connections to a new pedestrian land bridge over SR 520.

Key project elements include:

- **Stronger bridge structures:** A new west approach bridge over Union Bay will better withstand earthquakes, replacing today's 55-year-old bridge. This new, eastbound-only bridge will have two general-purpose lanes and a new transit/HOV lane.
- **Upgraded Montlake interchange:** The new Montlake interchange will feature improved on- and off-ramps for general traffic as well as direct-access ramps for transit and carpools.
- **New community gathering space:** The new Montlake lid will feature landscaped open space, and multimodal transit connections.
- **New ways to cross SR 520:** East of the lid, a new pedestrian and bicycle "land bridge" will connect the Arboretum and neighborhoods to the north.
- **A healthier environment:** New stormwater systems will capture and naturally filter out pollutants from highway runoff.



Landscaped open space on a new Montlake lid



New pedestrian/bicycle land bridge over SR 520