SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
and SECTION 4(f)/6(f) EVALUATION
SR 520 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND HOV PROGRAM

JANUARY 2010

SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

Washington State Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FHWA-WA-EIS-06-02-DS

SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program

SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation

ABSTRACT

The existing Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges on SR 520 are at the end of their useful life and must be replaced. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) plan to replace the existing facilities in order to provide structures capable of withstanding windstorms and earthquakes and to improve mobility and access for people and goods along the corridor.

The August 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project evaluated the No Build Alternative and two build alternatives, the 4-Lane Alternative and the 6-Lane Alternative. This Supplemental Draft EIS and Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation evaluates the effects of a No Build Alternative and three design options for the 6-Lane Alternative. These design options were developed through a mediation process established as part of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6099, enacted during the 2008 session of the Washington State Legislature. The Supplemental Draft EIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each 6-lane option compared to No Build.

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO:
National Environmental Policy Act, 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

State Environmental Policy Act, Chapter 43.21C, Revised Code of Washington & Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code 468-12

Section 4(f) (49 USC § 303 and USC § 138)

Randolph L. Everett, Seattle Major Projects Oversight Manager
Federal Highway Administration

January 5, 2010
Date of Approval

Megan White, Director of Environmental Services
Washington State Department of Transportation

1/5/10
Date of Approval

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SEPA Fact Sheet

Project Name: SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

Project Description

The SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project proposes to replace SR 520's Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges and improve the existing roadway between I-5 in Seattle and Evergreen Point Road in Medina.

The proposed action spans 5.2 miles of the SR 520 corridor and is one of four projects in the SR 520 Program. A 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed proposed corridor construction from the I-5 interchange in Seattle to just west of I-405 in Bellevue. In response to construction sequencing and funding, four independent projects now form the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program, to address growing transit demand on the Eastside and vulnerable structures in Seattle and on Lake Washington.

This Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation analyzes a No Build Alternative and a 6-Lane Alternative for the I-5 to Medina corridor with three design options for the Montlake interchange area. The 6-Lane Alternative would add continuous HOV lanes and include three landscaped lids over SR 520 to reconnect neighborhoods that are now separated by the highway.

Project Proponents

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the NEPA lead agency; Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is the lead SEPA agency.

Responsible SEPA Official

Megan White, Director
Washington State Department of Transportation
Environmental Services Office
WSDOT
P.O. Box 47331
Olympia, WA 98504

Proposed Project Implementation

Construction is planned to begin in 2012, and the new Evergreen Point Bridge is expected to open to traffic in 2014. If full funding is available, the rest of the project would be completed by 2018.

Comments and Contact Information

All written comments should be sent to:

Jenifer Young, Environmental Manager
SR 520 Project Office
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520
Seattle, WA 98101

Comments may also be sent by email to sr520sdeiscomments@wsdot.wa.gov, and the public can access the Supplemental Draft EIS and comment online at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr520Bridge

Permits and Approvals

Federal

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Section 404, Individual Permits
- Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

U.S. Coast Guard: Section 9, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

U.S. Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Section 6(f))

U.S. Department of Transportation Section 4(f)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries

- Section 7, Endangered Species Act Consultation
- Magnuson-Stevens Essential Fish Habitat Consultation

Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation: National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Section 106)

State

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Clean Air Conformity Certification

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval

Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Lands Use Authorization

Washington State Department of Ecology

- 401 Water Quality Certification
- 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Coastal Zone Management Act

Local

WSDOT will obtain the applicable local permits from the cities of Seattle and Medina, where the project would be located.

Authors and Principal Contributors

This Supplemental Draft EIS was prepared under the direction of WSDOT and FHWA. Research, analysis, and document preparation were provided by the preparers listed in Attachment 3.

Document Issue Date

Friday, January 22, 2010

Comment Period

The comment period on the Supplemental Draft EIS will begin on January 22, 2010, when notice of Supplemental Draft EIS is issued in the Federal Register and SEPA Register. WSDOT will accept comments through Monday, March 8, 2010. The comment period closes at midnight on March 8, 2010.

Environmental Hearing Date and Locations

A public hearing to provide information and accept comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS will be held:

February 23, 2010, 5 to 7 p.m.
Lake Union Park
Naval Reserve Building – Great Hall
860 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

Subsequent Environmental Review

The comment period ends March 8, 2010. A Preferred Alternative will be identified, and issuance of a Final EIS is anticipated by January 2011. The lead agencies will respond to comments in the Final EIS. Following issuance of the Final EIS, a Record of Decision will be issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

Location of Background Data

The 2006 Draft EIS, technical discipline reports, and other supporting documentation are maintained at the following locations:

Federal Highway Administration
Randy Everett
Seattle Major Projects Oversight Manager
Federal Highway Administration
915 Second Avenue
Room 3142
Seattle, WA 98174

Washington State Department of Transportation
Allison Hanson
Environmental Director
Mega Projects Office
999 Third Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98104

Document Cost and Availability

The Supplemental Draft EIS is available on CD-ROM at no charge, and print copies are available for $60, a cost which does not exceed printing and mailing costs. Copies can be obtained at the SR 520 Project Office, 999 Third Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98104. The Supplemental Draft EIS and related attachments can also be viewed at the following libraries:

Aberdeen Timberland Library

Bellevue College Library Media Center

King County Library System - Bellevue Regional Library

King County Library System - Kingsgate Library

King County Library System - Kirkland Library

King County Library System - Lake Hills Library

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Natural Resources Library

North Seattle Community College Library

Seattle Central Community College, Library

Seattle Public Library - Central Branch

Seattle Public Library - International District/Chinatown Branch

Seattle Public Library - Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch

Seattle Public Library - Montlake Branch
Seattle Public Library - North East Branch
Seattle Public Library - University Branch
Sound Transit
Timberland Regional Library
US Army Corp of Engineers - Seattle District Library
US EPA Region 10 Library
UW - Suzzallo and Allen Libraries
UW Department of Engineering - Library
UW Office of the Board of Regents
Washington State Department of Ecology Library
Washington State Library
WSDOT Headquarters Library

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3 List of Preparers

4 Distribution List

5 References

6 Draft Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation

Note: For all hard copies, Attachments 7, 8, and 9 are provided on the CD at the end of this SDEIS.

7 Discipline Reports:

Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Discipline Report
Air Quality Discipline Report
Construction Techniques and Activities Discipline Report
Cultural Resources Discipline Report
Description of Alternatives Discipline Report
Ecosystems Discipline Report
Energy Discipline Report
Environmental Justice Discipline Report
Geology and Soils Discipline Report
Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis Discipline Report
Land Use, Economics, and Relocations Discipline Report
Navigable Waterways Discipline Report
Noise Discipline Report
Recreation Discipline Report
Social Elements Discipline Report
Transportation Discipline Report
Visual Quality and Aesthetics Discipline Report
Water Resources Discipline Report

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