



SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program



I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project Monthly Public Meeting #8 – Summary

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Graham Visitors Center

2300 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle, WA 98112

Attendees

Flatiron West, Inc.

- Justin Allington, Project Manager

WSDOT

- Brian Dobbins, WABN Engineering Manager
- James VanSteenburg, WABN Construction Engineering Manager
- Kristin Sandstrom, WABN Communications Manager
- Kathryn Murdock, WABN Communications

City of Seattle

- Eric O'Brien, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Meeting overview

On Sept. 2, WSDOT and the contractor, Flatiron West, Inc., cohosted a monthly public meeting and invited the local community to learn about upcoming construction activities on the [SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project](#) (WABN). Approximately 6 members of the public attended. The monthly meeting is an informal forum where community members can learn about progress on the WABN project and ask WSDOT staff and the contractor questions about construction activities.

Key local work completed: Brian Dobbins

- Crews were busy this summer around the Montlake interchange and completed the following work:
 - Opening wider, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the east side of Montlake Boulevard.
 - Opening the new ADA-compliant ramp to the westbound SR 520 freeway transit stop. Crews are working to open stair access prior to the holiday weekend.
 - **UPDATE:** Stair access opened on Wednesday, Sept. 9.
 - Opening an additional, westbound right-turn only lane on East Lake Washington Boulevard.

- Opening a realigned westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard and activating a new traffic signal at the intersection of northbound Montlake Boulevard and the westbound SR 520 off-ramp.
 - WSDOT recognizes that some intersections and off-ramps were experiencing increased congestion. A traffic model was completed in 2012, prior to construction and predicted that traffic would not be noticeably impacted in the Montlake area. Since 2012, traffic volumes have increased.
 - Over the past few weeks, SDOT traffic engineers have adjusted the signals and noticed decreased congestion, particularly on the eastbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard. SDOT traffic engineers will continue to monitor the intersection and adjust once the University of Washington begins classes.

Upcoming work: James VanSteenburg

- As early as Tuesday, Sept. 8, crews will close the 24th Avenue East bridge for approximately six months to extend the bridge and create a new westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Lake Washington Boulevard.
 - This work may be loud for nearby neighbors as crews excavate, install shoring and build the new westbound SR 520 off-ramp.
 - While the 24th Avenue East bridge is closed, all bicycles and pedestrians will be detoured to wider, 10-foot wide sidewalks on the east side of Montlake Boulevard via East North Street. Detour routes are posted on-site and on our [website](#).
- From Sept. 25 to 27, crews demolished the southern, landside portions of the R.H. Thomson “Ramps to Nowhere.” Upcoming ramp demolition includes:
 - The decommissioned westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard in the next few weeks.
 - The westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Lake Washington Boulevard after the new westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Lake Washington Boulevard at 24th Avenue East opens to traffic.
 - Note: In the WABN phase, crews will not demolish the eastbound SR 520 on-ramp from Lake Washington Boulevard.
- Upcoming on-land work includes:
 - A partial paving of Montlake Boulevard and paving of East Lake Washington Boulevard on Wednesday, Sept. 2.
 - At a later time, crews will pave from East North Street to East Hamlin Street on Montlake Boulevard.
 - After paving is complete on East Lake Washington Boulevard, on-street parking will be restored.
 - Putting finishing touches on the sidewalks on the east side of Montlake Boulevard including installing yellow ramp pads on ADA upgrades.
 - Opening the westbound SR 520 freeway transit stop path stair access.
 - Re-installing bus stop and bike lockers after Labor Day weekend. Crews will add a temporary bus stop sign before installing a permanent bus stop sign near East Hamlin Street.

- Widening the eastbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard by adding a third lane.
- The fish window opened on Sept. 1 which allows crews to resume in-water work. Upcoming in-water work includes:
 - Casing and shaft installation east of the temporary work bridge by barge and cranes.
 - It will take approximately four months for crews to complete 16 shafts.
 - Madison Park residents may feel vibrations from the installation of the casings. If residents are concerned about damage to their homes from vibrations, they can call the 24-hour hotline – 206-708-4657 – to request an inspection.

Summer public tours: Kristin Sandstrom

- Summer public tours were very successful this summer with lots of registrations. WSDOT added an extra tour on Sept. 25 specifically for Montlake neighbors that were not able to get into the other tours.
- We had over 120 participants over four tours.

Key comments and questions

The summary below highlights key comments, questions and responses posed during the discussion. The summary is not verbatim but represents the themes of the comments and responses.

Permanent WABN construction

- **Question:** Will we be able to see the bridge taking shape next year at the summer, public tours?
- **Response (WSDOT):** Yes. Crews plan to install the columns in the next two to three weeks just east of Foster Island. Flatiron has also said that 150 feet of girders will be ready to be installed by Christmas.
- **Question:** Will the installation of a third lane on the eastbound SR 520 off-ramp help traffic in the area that has increased from the new traffic light?
- **Response (WSDOT):** When the third lane is installed, cars will have two dedicated left lanes and one right and through lane. A new lane may eliminate some of the green light time that traffic needs to exit the off-ramp and allow SDOT to add green light time to another intersection in the Montlake interchange.

East Park Drive East parking stalls

- **Question:** Seventy-five percent of people go the wrong way on East Hamlin Street after leaving the parking stalls on East Park Drive East. Can signs be added near the parking stalls that would alert drivers to travel on East Shelby Street to access Montlake Boulevard?
- **Response (city of Seattle):** We can look into it and propose some ideas to WSDOT.

Arboretum Waterfront Trail

- **Question:** Is the Arboretum Waterfront Trail going to be restored? The trail is disintegrating.
- **Response (WSDOT):** The Seattle Parks Department is in charge of the Arboretum Waterfront Trail. We can pass along your concern to our contact at the Seattle Parks Department.
- **Question:** Will the Arboretum Waterfront Trail remain open?
- **Response (WSDOT):** Yes, there are currently no plans to close the trail for construction.