

SR 520 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND HOV PROGRAM



World's newest and longest floating bridge opens in 2016

The original SR 520 floating bridge opened in the early 1960s. It provided a critically important regional link, connecting communities, universities and job centers in Seattle and the Eastside. After more than a half century of service, however, this bridge was at risk of a catastrophic failure in a major windstorm. It needed to be replaced.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) responded to this need by building a new SR 520 floating bridge that can withstand sustained winds of up to 89 mph, move more people and goods, and provide new commuting options. The old four-lane floating bridge was replaced by a structure with four general-purpose lanes, two transit/HOV lanes and a bicycle/pedestrian path. Construction of the new SR 520 floating bridge launched in January 2012. By November 2015, all the major components for the new bridge had been constructed and assembled on the lake. Crews spent the next several months installing electrical components and conduit, building bridge barrier and noise walls, installing stormwater systems and ballasting the bridge pontoons. The new bridge opened to traffic in April 2016.



Vicinity map of the SR 520 Floating Bridge and Landings Project.



The new SR 520 floating bridge, stretching westward from the Evergreen Point Road lid, features new transit/HOV lanes, a new bicycle/pedestrian path, and shoulders for disabled vehicles.

Most of the old SR 520 floating bridge is being reused or recycled

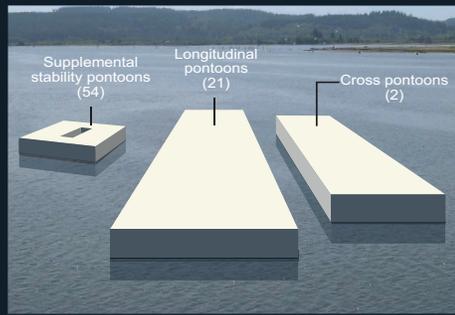


The west transition-span truss on the old bridge is lifted by crane before being dismantled on barges.

Contractor Kiewit/General/Manson, A Joint Venture (KGM) began to remove the old SR 520 floating bridge from Lake Washington immediately after traffic switched over to the new floating bridge. All 31 old bridge pontoons were kept intact and towed off Lake Washington. They were turned over to a third-party wholesaler for use elsewhere as docks, artificial reefs, wharfs or other marine structures.

Other materials from the old bridge, such as concrete columns and roadway barrier, were dismantled on barges, hauled to concrete recycling facilities and processed for reuse in paving projects.

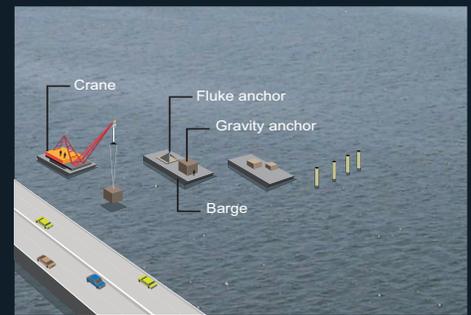
How WSDOT built the new SR 520 floating bridge



1 Build the necessary pontoons, anchors and roadway sections in Aberdeen, Tacoma and Kenmore.



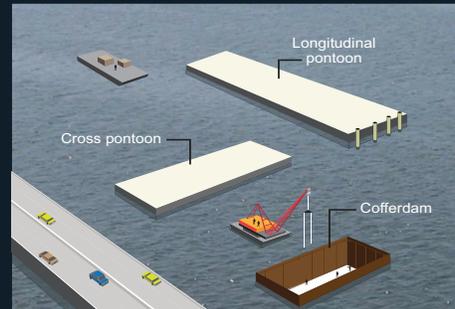
2 Begin constructing staging area near Medina with construction barges and cranes. Drive temporary piles.



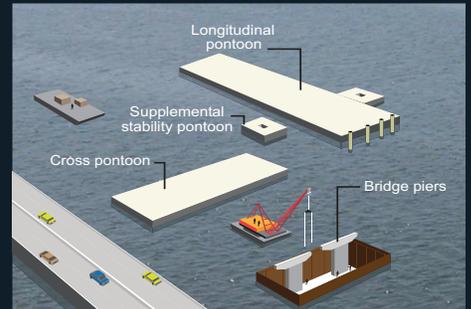
3 Install anchors for the floating bridge.



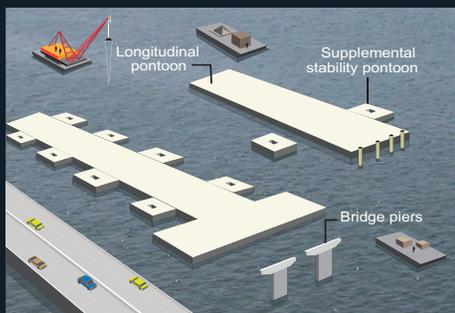
4 Tow pontoons to Lake Washington.



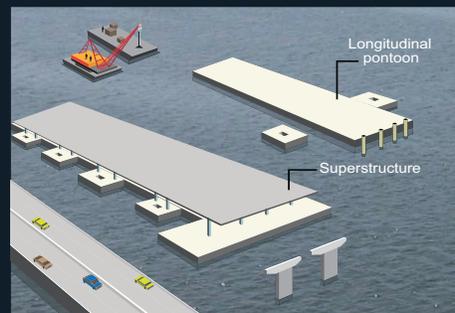
5 Install cofferdams to build bridge piers for East Approach structure.



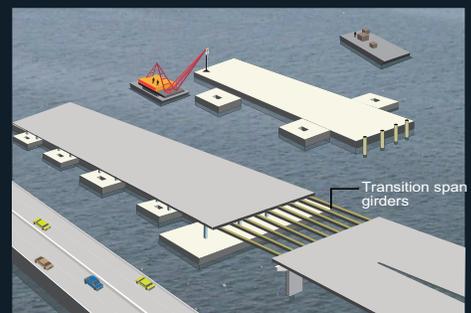
6 Build bridge piers in cofferdams and begin pontoon assembly in staging area. Join supplemental pontoons to longitudinal pontoons at staging area.



7 Begin joining longitudinal pontoons with cross pontoon.



8 Begin installation of superstructure on pontoons.



9 Continue assembling pontoons and begin construction of the east approach



10 Complete roadway superstructure.



11 Shift traffic to new floating bridge.



12 Decommission the existing bridge and remove from Lake Washington.

Note: Images for illustration purpose and are not to scale

For more information

Phone: 206-770-3554

Email: sr520bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

SR 520 Program Website:

wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr520bridge



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI Notice to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082.