

## **SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program Expenditures to Date Summary (1997 – December 2014)**

### **Program History**

During the past 18 years, WSDOT has worked toward replacing the aging and vulnerable State Route 520 floating bridge and approaches, and improving the corridor from I-5 in Seattle to the Eastside.

This effort has included corridor planning, preliminary engineering, right of way (or property) acquisitions, and construction activities.

As legislative funding decisions were made over the years, WSDOT further defined specific corridor projects and segments for analysis, environmental review, design and construction. In 2003, the Legislature created the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program. The SR 520 Program is now defined as three projects:

- I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project
- Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project
- Pontoon Construction Project (Grays Harbor County)

Work on the SR 520 corridor prior to 2003 was related to the Trans-Lake Study.

Key milestones completed to date include:

- Completion of the Trans-Lake Study (1997 to 2003).
- Compliance with seven legislative requirements for reports, studies, and/or processes.
- Completion of all nine environmental documents needed for construction permits.
- Purchase of properties necessary for construction or mitigation.
- Start of construction for Eastside, Pontoon, and Floating Bridge and Landings projects.
- Completion of the West Connection Bridge on Lake Washington.
- Receipt of a \$300 million federal loan that funds the West Approach Bridge North (WABN) construction phase, and start of construction of WABN.

### **Costs to Date**

In 2009, the Washington State Legislature set a program spending cap of \$4.65 billion for reconstructing SR 520. The Legislature has authorized funding for some, but not all, of the highway's planned improvements. The funded budget, revised to \$2.9 billion in 2014, covers construction of a new floating bridge and landings, all needed bridge pontoons, a substantially upgraded Eastside corridor, and the north half of a new west approach bridge in Seattle.

In December 2014, WSDOT completed an updated cost estimate of \$1.57 billion for constructing the corridor's remaining, unfunded elements in Seattle. The updated cost estimate for *all* program improvements, from I-5 in Seattle to I-405 in Bellevue, is \$4.47 billion – about \$180 million below the legislative spending cap of \$4.65 billion (set in 2009).

As of December 2014, the SR 520 Program has spent \$2.063 billion, or approximately 44 percent of the entire program’s \$4.65 billion spending cap. Additionally, \$22 million was spent on the Trans-Lake Study. The table below provides a summary of the total expenditures from 1997 through 2014, separated into three categories that are used to track WSDOT contracts and expenditures: Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction.

<b>Expenditures to Date</b>	<b>Approximate cost</b>
<b>Trans-Lake Study (1997-2003)</b>	\$22 million
<b><i>Sub-total</i></b>	<b><i>\$22 million</i></b>
<b>SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program (2003 – Dec 2014)</b>	
Preliminary Engineering ( <i>design and environmental</i> )	\$380 million
Right of Way	\$127 million
Construction	\$1,556 million
<b><i>Sub-total</i></b>	<b><i>\$2.063 billion</i></b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$2.085 billion</b>

### **1997-2003 Trans-Lake Study**

From 1997 to 2003, WSDOT spent approximately \$22 million planning for and studying how to move people and goods across and/or around Lake Washington in the most efficient way possible. This effort included analysis of the existing bridges (both I-90 and SR 520), locations for new bridge routes, ferry options, and multimodal approaches. The effort also included working with jurisdictions and elected officials on plans to replace the SR 520 floating bridge. The Trans-Lake Study, as this effort came to be known, was the primary result of this work. The study identified the need to replace the floating bridge and make additional safety and mobility improvements in the SR 520 corridor.

In 2002, Referendum 51 was presented to Washington voters to fund a range of transportation improvements, including \$100 million to continue planning on the SR 520 corridor. Voters rejected the referendum, leaving SR 520 corridor planning with no source of funding and putting on hold any momentum gained from the Trans-Lake Study.

### **July 2003 – December 2013: SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program**

In 2003 the Legislature enacted the Nickel Package for transportation, and included \$52 million for the new SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.

From July 2003 through December 2014, WSDOT spent approximately \$2.063 billion. The funding comes primarily from the 2003 Nickel Package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership Agreement (TPA) package, as well as bridge tolling and federal sources.

## **Preliminary Engineering: \$380 million spent through Dec. 31, 2014**

- **Design:**

- Corridor conceptual designs from I-5 in Seattle to SR 202 in Redmond, including a six-lane highway and bridge, initial designs for vulnerable bridges and structures, freeway lids, on- and off-ramps, transit access, stormwater facilities, and conceptual plans for mitigation.
- Preliminary designs for pontoons and pontoon casting facility in Grays Harbor County, which allowed WSDOT to seek design-build construction proposals and award a \$367.3 million contract for the Pontoon Construction Project to Kiewit-General. Construction began in February 2011.
- Jurisdiction and community design coordination and consensus with Bellevue, Redmond, Medina, Kirkland, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Clyde Hill for the Eastside Transit and HOV Project, which allowed WSDOT to seek design-build construction proposals and award a \$306 million contract to Eastside Corridor Constructors. Construction began in April 2011.
- Multiple legislatively mandated processes conducted on the SR 520 Program to evaluate project effects and/or develop or evaluate design options:
  - 2003, ESHB 1163: Required a seven-member advisory committee to evaluate traffic impacts and options for the Portage Bay/Roanoke Park/North Capitol Hill neighborhoods.
  - 2004, ESHB 2474: Continued the seven-member advisory committee required in ESHB 1163.
  - 2006, ESSB 6241: Required appointment of an independent expert review panel to review the finance plans, review the implementation plan, and report to the governor, who was then required to submit findings to the Legislature about the panel's recommendations.
  - 2007, ESSB 6099: Required the Office of Financial Management to hire a mediator to evaluate I-5 to Medina design options. This mediation led to 12 freeway and interchange design proposals for the Montlake area. The group narrowed the list to three design options (A, K and L) for complete analysis in the 2010 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The bill had three other key requirements: 1) for WSDOT to work with the University of Washington and transit agencies on a multimodal transportation plan; 2) submission of a project finance plan; and 3) development of a health impact assessment. This work resulted in several reports that were submitted to the Legislature and governor:
    - *SR 520 Finance Plan (January 2008)*
    - *SR 520 Health Impact Assessment (September 2008)*
    - *Westside Project Impact Plan (December 2008)*
    - *SR 520 High Capacity Transit Plan (December 2008)*
  - 2008, ESHB 2878: Required WSDOT to obtain a Record of Decision (ROD) prior to commencing construction on the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project. It also required the department to develop a plan for improvements for traffic flow from the Lake Washington shoreline to 108th Avenue Northeast in Bellevue, including (a) near-term, low-cost enhancements that relocate HOV lanes to the inside, and (b) an accelerated improvement project for the construction of median transit stops, reconfiguration of interchanges, addition of direct-access ramps, community enhancement lids, and pedestrian/bike path

connections. This work resulted in the *Accelerated Improvements to Address ESHB 2878* report that was submitted to the Legislature and governor in September 2008.

- 2009, ESHB 2211: Created the SR 520 Legislative Workgroup, composed of legislators from the transportation committees and the SR 520 corridor, to recommend design options to include in the supplemental draft EIS, as well as to review financing options. The SR 520 Legislative Workgroup recommended “Option A+” for the Montlake interchange and freeway design. This work resulted in the *SR 520 Legislative Workgroup Recommendations Report*, which was submitted to the Legislature and governor in December 2009.
- 2010, ESSB 6392: Directed WSDOT to convene three work groups, composed of various partners, and submit recommendations to the governor and Legislature on: design refinements, Arboretum mitigation options, transit recommendations, and planning and financing for high-capacity transit. This work resulted in several reports that were submitted to the Legislature and governor:
  - *ESSB 6392: Design Refinements and Transit Connections Workgroup Recommendations Report (October 2010)*
  - *ESSB 6392: High Capacity Transit Planning and Financing Findings and Recommendations Report (December 2010)*
  - *Washington Park Arboretum Mitigation Plan (December 2010)*
- 2011-2012: Completed the Seattle Community Design Process, an interactive design process to shape and refine the project vision and gather public input on the west side of the corridor. More than 1,100 people attended seven public workshops and provided more than 1,600 public comments on a draft design report. A final report was published in December 2012.
- 2014, ESSB 6001: Directed WSDOT to continue to work with the Seattle Department of Transportation in joint planning, design, outreach, and operation of the remaining west side elements including, but not limited to, the Montlake lid, the bicycle/pedestrian path, the effective network of transit connections, and the Portage Bay Bridge of the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.

### **Environmental documentation**

WSDOT has met all federal and state requirements to analyze and document the potential effects of the projects on the surrounding environment and affected communities. A total of nine environmental documents were required for the whole SR 520 Program, and are described below.

- All nine environmental impact analysis documents for the SR 520 Program are complete:
  - Completed 2006: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the floating bridge and interchanges from I-5 in Seattle to 108th Avenue Northeast in Bellevue.
  - Completed 2009: Environmental Assessment for the Eastside Transit and HOV Project from Medina to SR 202 in Redmond.
  - Completed 2010: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project, adding and analyzing three interchange designs for Montlake and further analyzing transit operations and construction.

- Completed 2010: Finding of No Significant Impact for the Eastside Transit and HOV Project from Medina to SR 202 in Redmond.
- Completed 2010: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for pontoon casting facility and pontoon construction in Grays Harbor County.
- Completed 2010: Final Environmental Impact Statement for pontoon casting facility and pontoon construction in Grays Harbor County.
- Completed 2011: Record of Decision for pontoon casting facility and pontoon construction in Grays Harbor County.
- Completed 2011: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.
- Completed 2011: Record of Decision for the I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.

**Right of way purchases: \$127 million spent through Dec. 31, 2014**

- WSDOT has now purchased full or partial real estate properties and acquired rights for several others within the SR 520 Program.
- Some of the properties are needed for construction, while others are mitigation sites to be developed.

**Construction: \$1.556 billion spent through Dec. 31, 2014**

Major construction is under way in the SR 520 corridor and in Grays Harbor and significant progress was made in 2014:

- Eastside construction continued from Medina to I-405, as crews installed fish-friendly culverts under the highway, constructed new lid structures, widened the highway corridor, and installed corridor noise and retaining walls. The new and improved corridor opened to drivers, transit riders, bicyclists and pedestrians in fall 2014.
- Pontoon construction continued in Aberdeen, as crews floated out the fourth and fifth cycles of pontoons from the casting basin. (The sixth and final cycle floated out in March 2015).
- Floating bridge construction continued on Lake Washington and Kenmore. In Tacoma, crews completed construction of the sixth and final cycle of pontoons to be constructed there. Crews continued to make progress assembling the new floating bridge on the lake using pontoons, anchors and other precast elements built off-site. The West Connection Bridge was completed in 2014. Over 50 percent of the pontoons for the new floating bridge were placed in their final locations in 2014, marking the halfway point for bridge assembly.
- Construction of the West Approach Bridge North began in fall 2014. This structure will connect SR 520's existing lanes in Seattle with the west end of the new floating bridge when it opens in summer 2017.
- Implementation of environmental projects at a variety of sites to mitigate for the effects of SR 520 construction.